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KITCHENS & BATHS™

32 Pages of Light-Filled Kitchens

12 Ways to Organize Now

Woman's Day Kitchens & Baths
Volume XVII, Number 4
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38 Must-Have Kitchen Products

Designing Space for Family Meals

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VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 4

KITCHENS & BATHS

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PHOTOGRAPH:
Alex Hayden

DESIGNER:
Geoff Prentiss, AIA, Prentiss Architects, Seattle

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Designers: Garlock DeGuiceis

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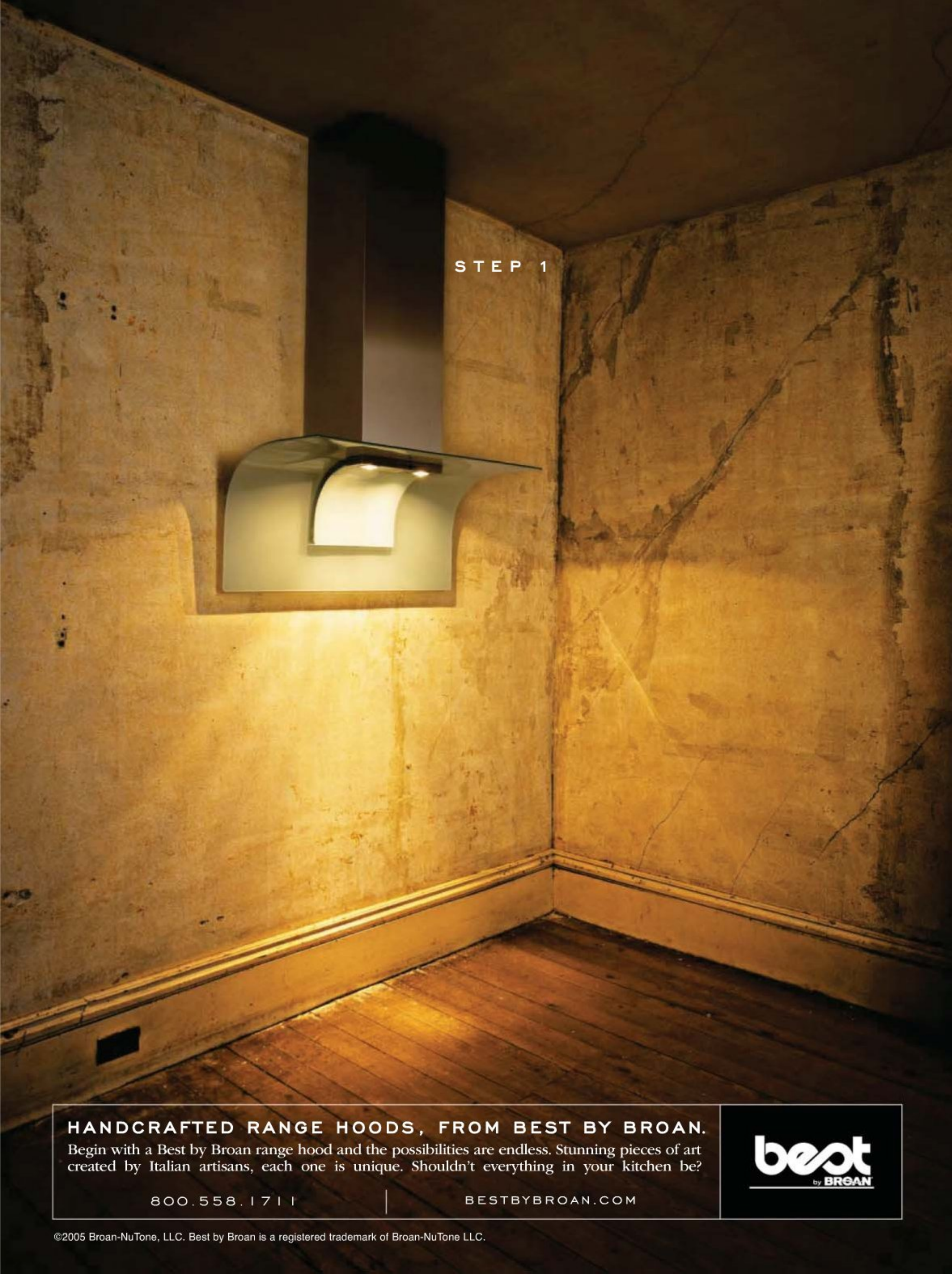
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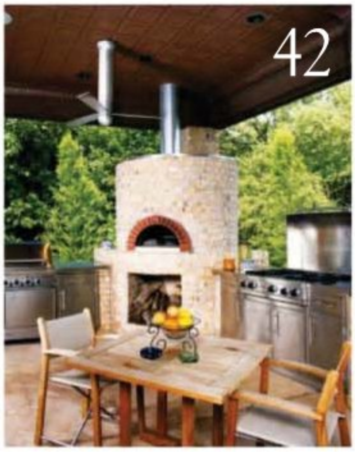
EDITOR'S NOTE

Take It Outside

Maybe it's cabin fever, or maybe it's a holdover from the years I spent living in sunny California, but I crave getting outside to cook at the earliest possible date. In my household, the first burgers of the barbecue season are flipped right around the time the crocus appear in the garden. This year, that was March 26. For those who live in the Northeast (like I do) or the Midwest, such a first-quarter date might seem to be jumping the gun—after all, spring isn't yet a full week old, and there are still pockets of snow to be found in the shady parts of the yard.

Those who share my enthusiasm for al fresco living should enjoy this issue of *Kitchens & Baths,* which focuses on connecting your spaces to the great outdoors through inventive uses of windows and skylights. You'll find locations from coast to coast packed with ideas you can incorporate into your own home.



And speaking of ideas, there's an abundance of great ones in our annual Design Showcase (page 57). Created by designer Ingrid Leess and special projects director Mervyn Kaufman, the 2007 installation highlights the ways digital technology has been integrated into the home.

Leslie

Leslie Plummer Clagett
Editor

PHOTOGRAPH: ABOVE, JOE POLILLIO HAIR AND MAKEUP: BATA

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LIGHTEN UP!

Dear Reader,

This issue of *Kitchens & Baths* is devoted to solving the classic problem of dark, closed-in kitchens. From quick fixes like a coat of fresh paint on the walls and ceiling or adding undercabinet task lighting to substantial renovations that introduce skylights and windows to the room, we hope you'll find ideas that spark improvements in your home. Have you "enlightened" a kitchen or bath lately? If so, I'd love to see the results and will publish the best kitchen or bath remodel in a future issue. Is your remodel a winner? E-mail me photos or write to me at Woman's Day Special Interest Publications, 1633 Broadway, 42nd floor, New York, NY 10019. (All photos must be at least 300 dpi.) I can't wait to hear from you!

Olivia

Olivia Monjo
Editor in Chief
omonjo@hfmus.com

Coming Up Next!

REMODELING & MAKEOVERS

On sale June 5

- Ways to add exterior color for summer
- How to unclutter the laundry room
- Before-and-after kitchens
- Stylish and storage-friendly mudrooms

KITCHENS & BATHS

Next issue on sale July 24

- Special storage issue
- Cottage to contemporary: Find your own kitchen style
- Summer fun! Great grills and outdoor showers
- Budget-wise custom kitchen furniture
- His-and-hers bath designs

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PHOTOGRAPH: TOP, LUCIANA PAMPALONE HAIR AND MAKEUP: STEPHANIE PARENT, FOR MARK EDWARD INC.

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IDEA FILE

what's new

Noteworthy trends and great new products for kitchens and baths

WRITTEN BY CATHY NELSON PRICE

PACIFIC OVERTURES

Named for a Japanese word for "peace," Porcher's Tetsu collection of modern bath furniture includes this wall mounted, exotic natural wood vanity, pre-plumbed for a vessel sink. Built-in towel bars extend and retract at a touch. $1,000. 866-455-6118; *www.porcher-us.com.*

TREASURED ISLAND

The art of food preparation is just that with the Metro Oasis Kitchen Island from John Boos. The 32-inch round hard maple butcher block cutting surface rises above brushed steel making a sophisticated spot for mundane chores. $1,200. 217-347-7701; *www.johnboos.com.*

CLICK & CLEAN

The Raindance Connect system from Hansgrohe diverts water from hand shower to showerhead with a single click. The hand shower acts as a diverter, so there's no need to install additional valves. Chrome finish, $795; Brushed Nickel finish, $1,145. 800-334-0455; *www.hansgrohe-usa.com.*

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IDEA FILE

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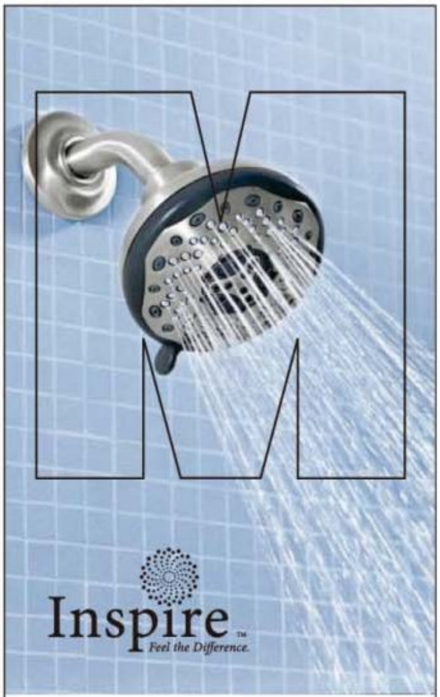

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Of couples who love to cook together, nearly 83% share the whole process, from planning to clean up.

(Sears Kenmore 2006 survey)

HANG 'EM HIGH

The Japanese character for "luck" lends both its name and shape to this pot rack from FlavourDesign. The Potluck comes in black or red, $420; and stainless steel, $750. 250-752-4627; *www.flavourdesign.com.*

MIDNIGHT OASIS

The distressed effect on Wellborn's new Vintage Midnight finish gives cabinetry an heirloom look. The low-sheen black color is available for several maple door styles. About $6,200 for a vanity, as shown. 800-336-8040; *www.wellborn.com.*

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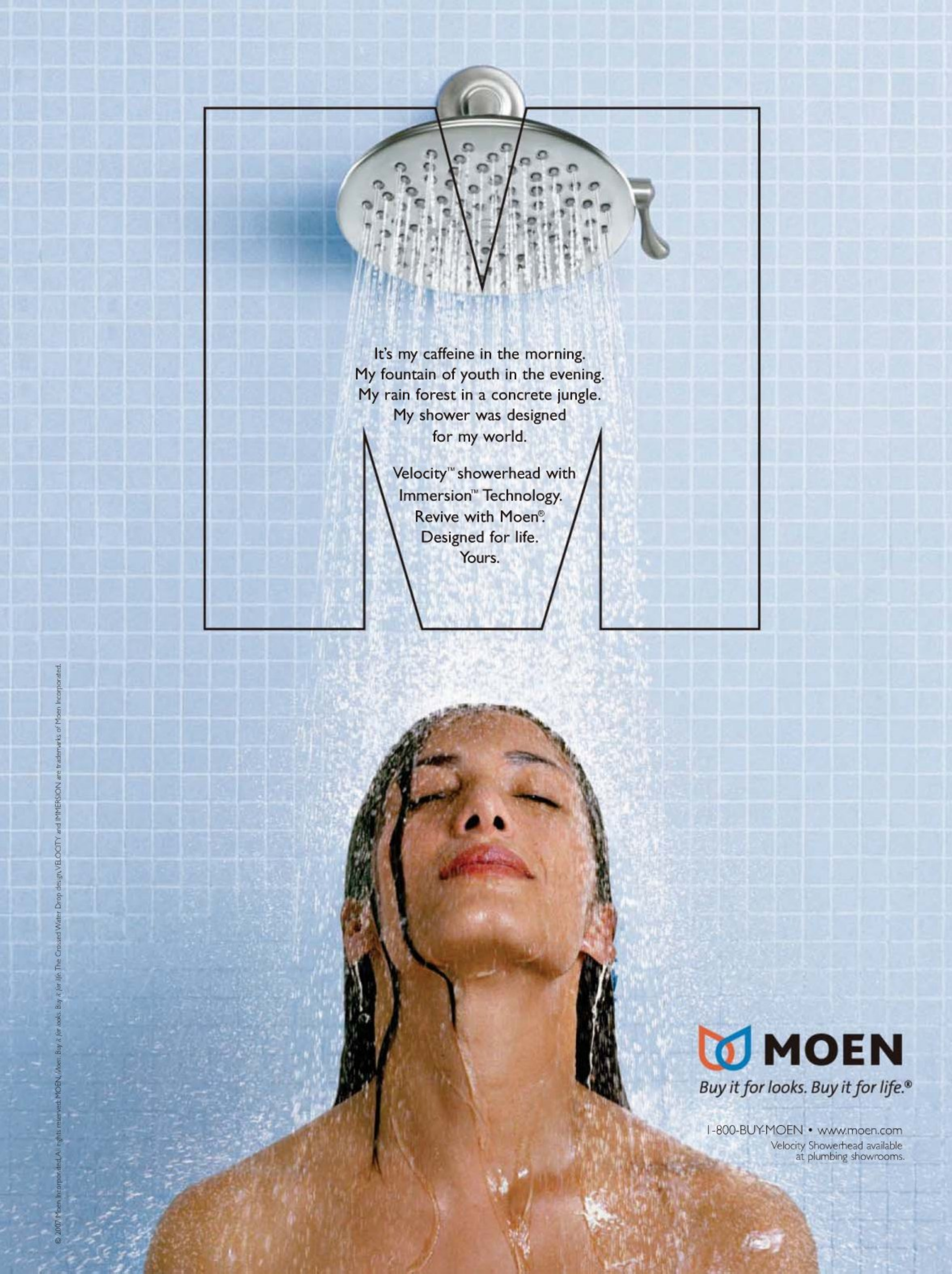
New from Elkay's Asana collection, the basket-weave vessel sink is cast in brass, finished in aged bronze. Its top rim is accented in bright brass for a sleek, modern touch. From $1,700 to $1,900, depending on size. 630-572-3192; *www.elkayusa.com.* ◆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vanity cases

Where to find the prettiest accessories for your bathroom

WRITTEN BY PAMELA ABRAHAMS

NEW YORK CITY

URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Love the look of vintage bath fixtures, lighting and hardware? Then Urban Archaeology is the place to go. First opened over 20 years ago as a shop for restoring salvaged items, it now offers new products inspired by elements from American buildings and hotels. All are lovingly handcrafted at the lower Manhattan location, where craftsmen produce lighting fixtures, bath accessories, washstands and medicine cabinets—all up to today's standards and codes. And if you have a special item you want duplicated, this is the place that can do it! 143 Franklin St., New York, NY 10013; 212-431-4646; *www.urbanarchaeology.com*.

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

LAVENDER AND LACE

Located in historic Cameron Village, in Raleigh, North Carolina, Lavender and Lace is loaded with fine towels, linens, rugs, gently scented soaps and candles and other bathroom goodies designed to create a beautiful and relaxing space. The store is also stocked with handsome hardware, towel warmers and earth-friendly home-care products. Best of all, proprietor Jeanne Clay lets you take anything home to see if you like it before you buy it. 2031 Cameron St., Raleigh, NC 27605; 919-828-6007; *www.lavenderandlace.net*.

LOS ANGELES

BLUEGRASS HOME

Kendra Rogers scours her home state of Kentucky for the vintage pieces she likes to mix into her new store, Bluegrass Home. The charming shop, located near trendy La Brea, in Hancock Park, is chock-full of fun, colorful bath accessories both new and old. A former fashion designer, Rogers has an eye for great lines and good design that ranges from capiz-shell-covered accessories with a beachy vibe to vintage vases and framed mirrors that create a romantic mood. Popular lotions and potions from K. Hall Designs in unusual scents such as Milk and Fig round out the offerings. 5818 W. 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90036; 323-932-0011.

PITTSBURGH

FEATHERS

A tiny store in the toney Shadyside shopping area, Feathers is overflowing with whimsical accessories such as pebble-covered tissue containers, but its specialty is linens. Its luscious array of towels and rugs in sorbet colors come from some of the top names in textiles for bed and bath.

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objects of desire

Designers share their latest obsessions

WRITTEN BY JUDI KETTELER

LAURA BOHN

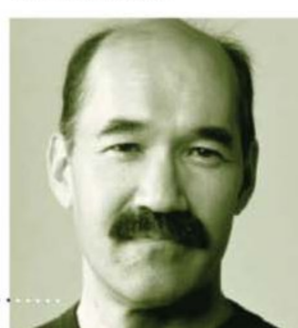
Interior designer and owner of Laura Bohn Design Associates, New York City

"I'm completely into lighting right now," Bohn says. She's been on the hunt for unusual lighting fixtures ever since attending a design show in Milan. She fell in love with a fixture from Moooi—a balloon-like piece made from parachute cloth that's about nine feet across and 10 feet high. "You plug it in and a fan blows it up. It has totally inspired me because I like to have fun with lighting," Bohn says.

SCOTT STULTZ

Designer, owner of Scott A. Stultz & Associates, in Marietta, Pennsylvania

"I'm obsessed with combining musical and design principles," Stultz says. "It keeps a room from feeling static." No doubt influenced by his wife—a modern classical composer, Stultz likes the idea of taking a basic musical principle, such as rhythm, and finding a design application for it. For example, just as there are layers of rhythm in a musical piece, there can be layers of rhythm in a kitchen—different types of repetition in the design, such as patterns, textures or even colors that are overlapped or placed in close proximity to one another.



JOAN KOHN

Author of *Joan Kohn's It's Your Kitchen*

"It's all about storage," Kohn says. She particularly likes using pantries for storing bulky kitchen items, from serving pieces to small appliances. "Clutter is the nemesis of good design, and an accommodating pantry is a great way to keep your kitchen beautiful and refined," she says. The look she's crazy for now is windows in place of upper cabinets—but it really only works well in conjunction with a sizeable pantry.

CLODAGH

Designer, owner of Clodagh Design, New York City

"My obsession is concrete—I've been obsessed for 20 years," Clodagh says. She loves its texture and satin-like finish. "It's warmer than stone, and ages beautifully," she says. For flooring, she's been excited about bamboo lately. "It's sustainable and kind." It also looks great and is highly versatile (she's used it in cabinets, too). Clodagh is also a fan of good storage and proper recycling bins. Who says green can't be stylish?

MARTHA KERR

Kitchen designer with Neil Kelly Company, Portland, Oregon

"I really like the 'east meets west' Asian influence," Kerr says. She'll take clean lines over chunky any day—not just because the lines are inspiring, but also because the design is easier to maintain. "I love it because you can do so much more with accessories when you haven't been so bold with the design statement," she says. She's also enamored of glass tile for creating custom backsplashes.

HEIDI KARPA

Host of *HGTV KitchenDesign.com*

Karpa loves the new tiles from Ann Sacks Tile & Stone that feature Angela Adams patterns. "They're to die for," she says. "I love the Angela Adams collection: It has a very mid-century feel, and it's just fabulous tile." Karpa also can't get enough of the striped towels from Missoni Home. "Their textural graphics are amazing," she says.

CASS CALDER SMITH

Architect and owner of Cass Calder Smith Architecture, San Francisco

Smith is in love with the all-island kitchen at the moment. "I like spaces with nothing high up and nothing bulky. It's not always practical, but it looks great," he says. Another current obsession: mixing wood with stainless steel. "It creates a balanced look and feel, and adds an element of sleekness," he says. "I also like the convenience of instant hot water dispensers." ◆

crowd control

Preserving order in the kitchen

WRITTEN BY MIA ALVAR

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recipes for a neater kitchen

Linda Cobb is the author of *Talking Dirty with the Queen of Clean* (Pocket Books, 2000). Here, the Queen shares her advice on controlling clutter in the kitchen.

◆ **COUNTER BLESSING** To maintain an uncluttered look, Cobb bares as much counter surface as possible. This may mean reducing decorative items and stashing away appliances you don't use daily.

◆ **LAYERED LOOK** Limited space in the kitchen? Use stacking shelves to divide tall cupboards into two or more levels, and sliding trays to maximize drawer space for flatware or cooking tools.

◆ **SPIC 'N SPAN** For Cobb, cleaning and organizing go hand in hand. "Less clutter makes for a cleaner kitchen," she says. Her suggestion: Have an empty laundry basket at the ready while cleaning the kitchen. Items that belong elsewhere can be tossed into the laundry basket and returned to their proper places.

◆ **SIDE WAYS** Prop baking dishes and cookie sheets on their edges to save time and space: You'll locate them more easily this way than by rummaging through a stack that's laid flat. Cobb uses a bookend or a fabric-covered brick as a weight to keep bakeware standing. ◆

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go green

Reduce global warming and your utility bills

WRITTEN BY LEE ANN MURPHY

2 Research windows. Double-glazed windows with low-E coatings insulate better in winter and summer, saving energy and lowering utility bills. Some windows let solar heat in and some keep it out; ask a professional what works best for your area.

If the concept of being green conjures up images of compost heaps and hippies, you're living in the past. Green design has gone mainstream, and for good reason. Environmentally friendly homes not only fend off global warming, they also save money on water and energy bills, and much more. Here are a few ideas that can add a tint of green to kitchens without breaking out the old bell-bottoms. (We'll cover baths in a future issue.)

1 **DO SOME LIGHT WORK**. By far the easiest green strategy is replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps, or CFLs. Incandescents convert the bulk of energy they use into heat. CFLs produce relatively little heat, so they run more efficiently, last up to 10 times longer, and, yes, they come in warm, kitchen-friendly versions.

3 **PLAN FOR THE LONG HAUL**. Resist trendy cabinets, countertops and flooring in aggressive colors or styles. They may look bold and beautiful now, but when those colors fade from fashion, you'll end up replacing the products before the end of their useful lifespan, which is wasteful. Instead, stick with colors and finishes that have remained consistently popular for decades. Feel free, however, to take risks on accents and accessories. Try a hot new shade of red on open shelves or chair rails, for instance. When trends change, you can just repaint.

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10 WAYS TO...

4 CHOOSE ENERGY STAR PRODUCTS. The Energy Star logo on a refrigerator, dishwasher, laundry appliance or window means the product is among the top 25 percent in its category for energy efficiency, as rated by the federal government. Rebates from local governments on Energy Star products can reduce the initial expenditure. Lower utility bills will defray the rest of the cost in the long term.

5 THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL. "Embodied energy" is the electricity and fuel used making and transporting a product. Cabinets from a nearby shop have less embodied energy than those made thousands of miles away. American bamboo is more eco-friendly than Asian bamboo. "Buy local when possible," says Cindi Landreth, of Adaptations Design Studio in Bellingham, Washington. "If you can't buy local, buy regional, and so on."

6 SEEK CERTIFIED WOOD. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certifies that trees are harvested responsibly, without destroying habitats or old-growth forests. Look for cabinets, flooring and building components with the FSC label.

7 RECLAIM PRIZED MATERIALS. Add distinctive character with pine floor planks from an old farmhouse or stained glass from a charming home that was bulldozed to make way for a McMansion. Reclaiming such material is direct recycling.

8 Make recycling easy. Build a place for glass, aluminum and paper next to the regular garbage, not hidden in the garage. The closer the bins are to the point of use, the more likely your family will recycle.

9 PAPER YOUR COUNTERTOP. Among recent eco-friendly advances are countertops made in part from recycled paper. The surface consists of paper pulp combined with the pulp of wood from managed forests. That mixture is compressed and baked with resins into a hard material. "Like linoleum, it's long lasting and easy to care for," says kitchen and bath designer Jan Hayes, of Domistyle Design also in Bellingham. ◆

10 Linoleum? Yes, linoleum. It consists almost entirely of natural raw materials: linseed oil, wood or cork powder, resins and ground limestone. It comes in a vast array of colors, is easy to maintain and lasts for decades. "I've seen 70-year-old linoleum that still looked good," Hayes says.

PHOTOGRAPHS: MERILLAT

an outdoor spa

WRITTEN BY DON STUART

The 701 King Series II spa from Spa Crest features 56 jets and accommodates up to six people. Measuring 7×7 feet, the tub has a 24-hour circulation pump that provides continuous cleaning and heating, and an ozone water purification system that reduces the need for harsh chemicals. From $7,000. *www.spacrest.com*.

The term "spa" originated in Belgium, where Spa is the name of a town renowned for its hot springs. Today, you can set up a restorative pool of warm, bubbling water right in your own backyard. If you're considering the purchase of an outdoor spa, there are a few things to know before you begin relaxing.

"The first two things we recommend deciding are how you are going to use the tub and where you will put it," says George Patselas, vice president of sales and marketing for hot tub manufacturer Spa Crest, in Claxton, Georgia. "A therapeutic spa will have different design and performance features than a party tub." While the ability to hook up a portable media device (like an iPod) is important for some, ergonomic seating is a priority for others. "Baby boomers are using hot tubs for relief from stress, muscle strain and joint stiffness as much as for entertaining," says Anthony Pasquareli, communications manger for Jacuzzi, in Chino, California.

The most important decision is where to place your spa. Choose a solid, level surface that can safely bear the weight—around 150 pounds per square foot—and where the tub can be easily connected to electrical service and conveniently filled and drained. Don't forget to consider privacy needs and whether you want the tub in the shade or the sun.

Once you've found the ideal spot, determine your budget. Prices generally start at around $2,000 and can soar to well over $10,000, not including ongoing operating and energy costs. A great many factors influence price; determining size, seating capacity and budget is only the beginning. You'll also need to decide how many jets you

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want and where to place them, pump horsepower, the types of filtering and water care systems, styling and color. Here are the key things to keep in mind as you make your selection:

SIZE

Choose the size of a spa according to how many people will commonly use it. A couple or small family will have much different needs than a large clan or those who plan to use the spa for entertaining. A properly sized tub also needs to suit the bodies of the users. Never buy a tub without climbing in to check legroom and depth—it's even better to test if the tub is filled. (Always take a swimsuit while spa shopping!)

INSULATION

Full foam insulation fills the entire spa cabinet with polyurethane foam. This provides a high R value—a measure of the insulation's efficiency at preventing heat loss. Multilayer insulation, which employs multiple insulation panels, is less expensive to produce than full foam, and in certain repair situations may be easier to remove and replace than full foam.

SEATING

Spa seats come in a nearly endless variety and are routinely customized. Options include basic benches, molded lounges with neck rests, captain's chairs, love seats and deep soaking wells. The tub should feature hand holds or grab bars to make it safe and easy to move around.

MATERIAL

Most hot tubs are made of acrylic, which is easy to maintain. Plastic shells are less expensive, but may be more prone to scratching, staining and fading. Some tubs are even made from wood, typically redwood, but these generally demand more upkeep and don't offer contoured seating and lounging.

The Denali spa from Sundance Spas features a traditional round shape and accommodates four people with 20 hydrotherapy jets. From $5,600. *www.sundancespas.com*.

good

$2,000 to $6,000

Designs and styles are simple yet plentiful in this entry-level price range. Models in this category generally seat two to four people comfortably and offer from 10 to 20 jets, although jet design and horsepower will be basic rather than high-tech. Be choosy about an entry-level tub's insulation properties, because insufficient insulation can result in high ongoing operating costs.

better

$6,000 to $10,000

Find a wider array of features, as well as spas suited for as many as 10 users, though there may be trade-offs (for example, fewer jets in exchange for more capacity). Jet options are broad, in number and type, and are often controlled by multiple pumps that allow for greater adjustability. Expect upgraded aesthetics in shell colors and styles, and optional features such as special lighting or sound systems.

best

$10,000+

At these prices, you'll be able to design your ideal hot-tub environment, including sophisticated audio systems, docking stations for personal music devices, and jets that deliver massage tailored to the user. Seating options—such as lounges that allow full-body reclining—are more diverse. Extras can include TV/DVD players, remote controls that enable the tub to preheat, towel warmers, and even spa-side bars complete with refrigerators.

→

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IF YOU'RE THINKING OF BUYING

JETS

Like seating choices, you can customize the number and placement of jets. The average hot tub generally offers around 20 jets, but that number can go as low as six and as high as 160. However, the number of jets is less important than their position and adjustability, especially if you're choosing a spa for therapeutic reasons. The key is to make sure the jet layout focuses bubble streams on the specific muscle groups you desire, such as the neck and shoulders, the torso or legs and feet.

HORSEPOWER

Jet designs may differ, but they all work around the basic principle of mixing air with water. The force of that stream depends on the horsepower of the pump or pumps. Pumps are typically rated anywhere from 1.5 to 5 HP. In general, for a tub with 15 to 20 jets, an HP of 1.5 to 2 should be quite sufficient.

FILTERING SYSTEMS

Proper water maintenance is critical to maximizing your tub's life as well as enjoying your spa experience. The filter system keeps water clean and clear. This is easier than ever with technologies such as automatic ozone sanitation systems and mineral ion purifiers, which greatly reduce the need for chemicals. Nevertheless, you'll still need to budget for and buy chemicals, and make time every week to add them to your spa. Your tub should also be routinely drained and refilled every three to four months.

SAFETY

Families with children may want to choose a spa with safety switches for automatic shutoff and a cover that locks (which also helps keep the tub clean). A skim filter located on the side of the tub, just at the water's surface, may be preferable to an underwater filter, which can potentially catch hair and clothing. ◆

The J-400 collection from Jacuzzi ups the decadence quotient. In addition to ergonomic seating, audio system, and top-of-the-line PowerPro jet system, the tub features a patent-pending lip at the rear with an LED-lit waterfall. From $10,000. *www.jacuzzi.com*.

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WRITTEN BY GINEVRA PYLANT

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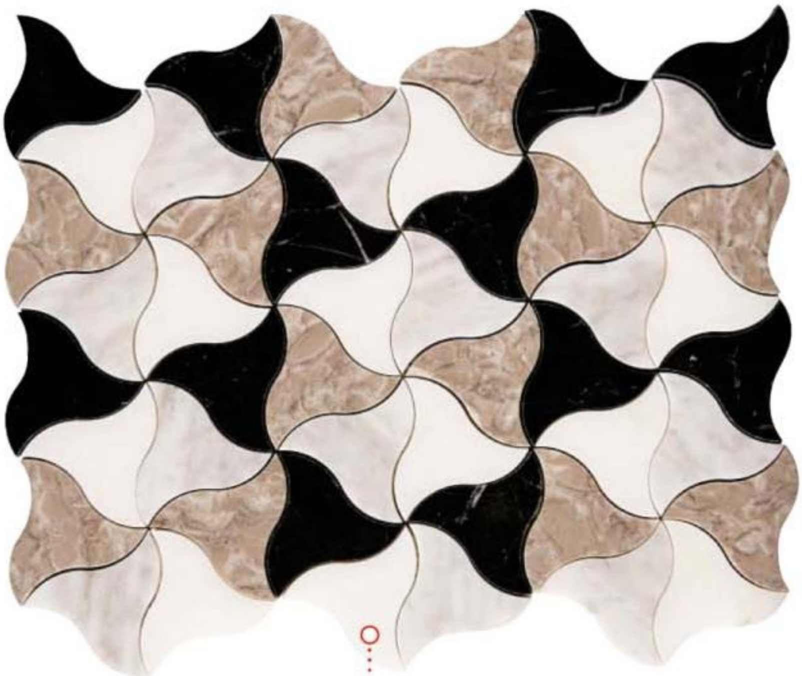
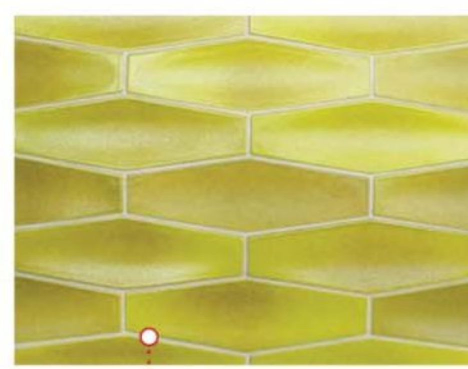


GOING DOTTY
A simple circle is transformed into a graphic delight in the Viva Ceramic Bloom Allround wall tile. $48 per 8×16-inch sheet, 800-351-0038; *www.hastingstilebath.com*.

OP ART
Mosaics go mod in Aqualinea Pinwheel wall and floor stone tiles. $138 for a 10×12-inch sheet. 800-899-6757; *www.waterworks.com*.



LUMINOUS
Diamonds glazed wall and floor stoneware tile is a sparkling example of mid-century modern. Available in 38 colors including citrus, shown. 3×9 inches, $77 per square foot. 415-332-3732; *www.heathceramics.com*.

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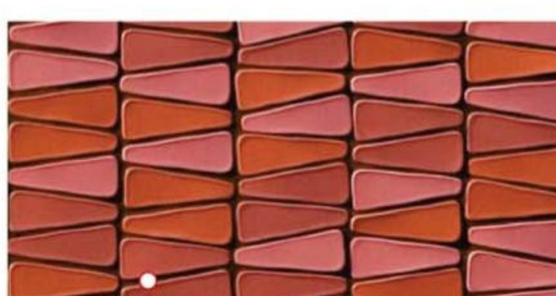

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The basic triangle is organically redrawn with softly curved corners in Angela Adams' Forms Corice earthenware wall tile. Available in 16 colors. 2×6-inch tile in burnt umber, $47 per square foot. 800-278-8453; *www.annsacks.com*. ◆

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WRITTEN BY KELLI ACCIARDO

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6. SILLY SQUID
The eccentric Squid baster from Boston Warehouse is cute *and* useful. The spout is calibrated in ounces as an added bonus. Available in white, red and purple. $12. 800-440-0680; *www.target.com.*

PHOTOGRAPH: LEN LAGRUA STYLING: MATT TUTTLE

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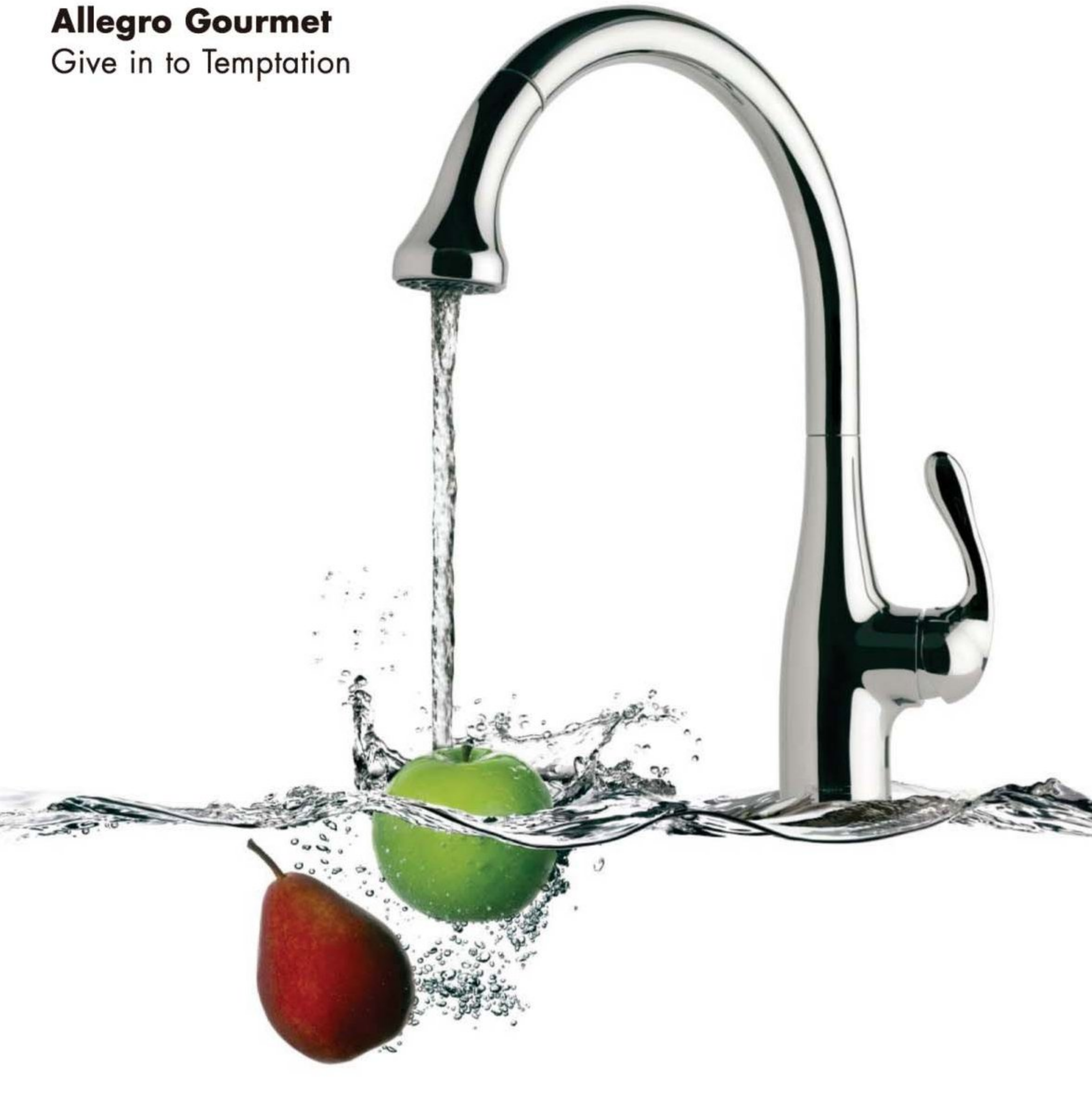

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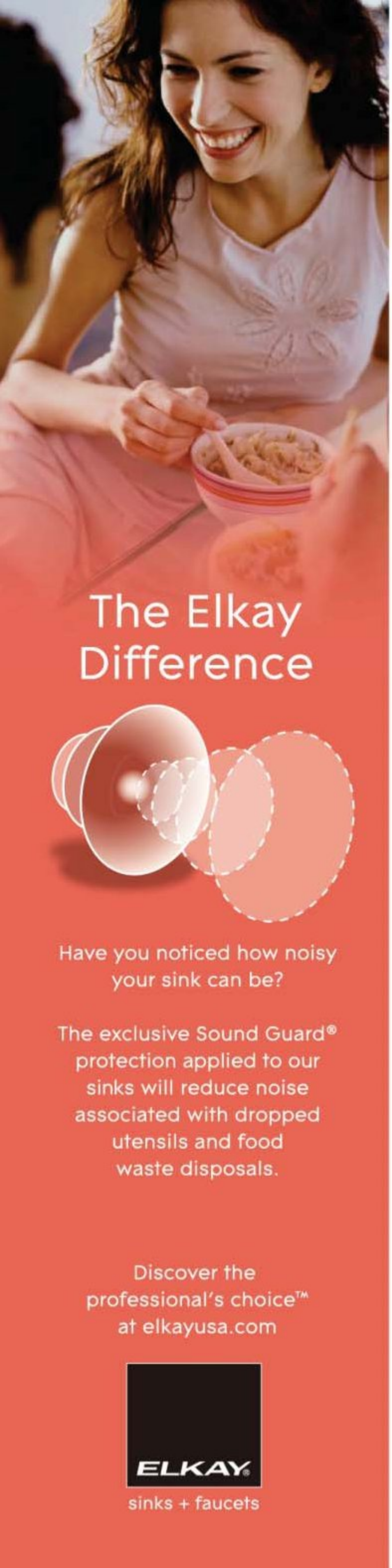

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outdoor kitchen

Upgrading the backyard barbecue

WRITTEN BY BILL PARTSCH

ABOVE: An outdoor kitchen is more than a grill on a deck. Typically, it needs at least an island for that grill to sit in. This island also sports a refrigerator, a side burner on top and a warming drawer.

Cooking outside used to be as simple as loading the kettle with charcoal to grill burgers and franks. Lately, however, elaborate installations—some costing upward of $50,000—have transformed ordinary backyards into opulent outdoor kitchens. Weather permitting, an outdoor setup can be every bit the social hub that the kitchen inside has become.

The three major factors that go into planning an outdoor kitchen, according to Tom Ewell, vice president of Outdoor Kitchens by Design in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, are how much space you have for it, the equipment you want to put in it and your budget. For those who don't require the super-deluxe treatment, outdoor kitchens can be had for as little as $5,000. For that, Ewell says, you'd most likely end up with an island about 7 feet long, with a built-in grill, a refrigerator and a bit of countertop for prepping and serving.

"Our typical job runs about $12,000," Ewell says. "That gets you a pretty generous island—about 20 feet, usually in an L shape—with a good amount of high bar and enough room to seat four to six people."

For an outdoor grilling area to truly be a kitchen, a grill, sink and refrigerator need to be built into an island. This fulfills the

PHOTOGRAPH: ABOVE, DCS/FISHER & PAYKEL

must have

Fridges must be certified for outdoor use. They're built tougher and cost more than indoor versions.

KitchenAid 24-inch outdoor refrigerator, $2,299. 800-422-1230; *www.kitchenaid.com.*

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ABOVE: This well-appointed setup includes storage under the grill and beneath the beverage center at right. Note, too, the island's stone facing. Using materials that match or complement a home's exterior makes the outdoor kitchen look like it was part of the house all along.

basic requirements of a kitchen by incorporating a work surface and storage. "The two things people scrimp on are counter space and undercounter storage," says Mike Logan, president of Texas Pit Crafters in Pinehurst, Texas. "They think they're saving money, but really they're just frustrating themselves. You have to have good storage, otherwise you're moving stuff from the inside to the outside, running back and forth, and before long, you lose interest."

The central piece of equipment, of course, is the grill. "Most people want a quality grill, which can range from $1,800 to $5,000," Ewell says. "It needs to be something that's going to last." It doesn't, however, need to be huge. "When a husband and wife are talking to me, the guy wants something huge," says Kevin Cunningham, president of Ultimate Outdoor Kitchens in Geneva, Illinois. "You don't really need the biggest thing. The average grill we sell is 30 to 36 inches wide. That's plenty for a family of four, and it can entertain up to 30 people."

In addition to gas grills, Texas Pit Crafters offers built-in charcoal pits and smokers for genuine, slow-cooked barbecue. For Logan, the most important thing to consider with an outdoor kitchen is what the homeowners will be cooking. "If they just want to make their food and be done with it, I recommend gas," he says. If they have more time to dedicate and want to smoke food, he suggests adding charcoal.

Side burners are popular add-ons. Ewell is fond of an extra-powerful unit that generates anywhere from 3,000 to 60,000 Btu. "It'll boil a big pot of water in five minutes," he

PHOTOGRAPH: ABOVE, KITCHENAID; OPPOSITE ABOVE, MICHELLE WURTH

must have

A sink doesn't have to be big, but it does need to handle the weather. That means stainless steel.

Elkay Pacemaker sink, about $700, faucet included. 630-572-3192; *www.elkayusa.com.*

says. These high-octane burners are usually recessed into the countertop about 10 inches to make it easier to use tall pots for crawfish or lobster boils.

Cunningham finds that except for die-hard cooking enthusiasts, his customers buy side burners—the standard, 15,000-Btu versions—and wind up not using them. Outdoor refrigerators, however, are much beloved and see plenty of action. Homeowners should make sure the fridge is UL-certified for outdoor installation, he says, which typically means it has a ground-fault interrupter on the cord, is constructed of stainless steel and has a heavier-duty motor. "You'll pay a higher price for it because you can leave it outside year-round," he says. "An outdoor refrigerator can be twice the price of an indoor unit."

About half of Ewell's customers ask for a sink outside, he says. "They're good for washing your hands, getting rid of grease," Cunningham says. "The only drawback is having to run all the plumbing out to the island." To prevent pipes from freezing in the winter, they must be drained dry at the end of barbecue season. "On the West Coast—anywhere it's warm year-round—they don't have this problem," he says.

Ewell builds his islands with galvanized steel studs and tops them with travertine tile. Cunningham adds granite, limestone and bluestone to his offerings. All of these surfaces require maintenance at least yearly. "You have to seal them to prevent staining," Cunningham says, adding that water damage isn't really an issue. "The elements are going to weather things regardless."

Finish options for the island's sides include stucco, brick and stone. Ewell, Cunningham and Logan all agree that it's important that the island and overall design of the outdoor kitchen match or at least complement the home's exterior. "Our goal is to make the island look like it belongs with the house, not like an afterthought," Ewell says. "It will add value to the home because everybody wants one." ◆

RIGHT: Fireplaces have become more and more popular in outdoor kitchens, designers say. Their heat can extend the grilling season, and their warm glow can enhance the atmosphere of any evening get-together.

must have

Barbecue purists insist on charcoal. This multi-fuel grill uses gas, charcoal, hardwood or a combination.

Kalamazoo Gourmet Bread Breaker, $9,995. 800-868-1699; *www.kalamazoogourmet.com.*

cottage industry

Retro and techno blend in a modern country kitchen

WRITTEN BY JOANNE MOLINA

style notes

KNOCK ON WOOD
Nothing adds charm and warmth like wide-plank wood floors. But don't get stuck in a rut—too much natural wood can make the space look dark. Try painting the ceiling bright white to reflect light.

NATURAL BEAUTY
Warm up the urban look of chrome, stainless steel, nickel and glass with colors straight from the outdoors. Bring in the sun with creamy yellow walls, throw in a solid-wood kitchen island and add an area rug woven with natural fibers to keep the room light and airy.

HANGING AROUND
Make the kitchen a favorite gathering spot with lighting that's soft yet bright. Pendant lamps hung throughout the kitchen keep task areas well lit and the chef in the spotlight.

PHOTOGRAPH: ROB KAROSIS

TREAD LIGHTLY
Jute bouclé rug. 2×3 feet, $19. 888-922-4119; *www.westelm.com*.

BEAM ME UP
Optic pendant in polished nickel. $149 for flush mount. 800-910-9836; *www.restorationhardware.com*.

SHELF LIFE
John Boos natural maple Rustica island with shelf. $1,593. 217-347-7701; *www.johnboos.com*.

CUT TO THE FINISH
Henckels Twin Four-Star II eight-piece knife block set. $300. 800-243-0852; *www.surlatable.com*. ◆

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picnic time

Head out-of-bounds with a portable spread

WRITTEN BY KELLI ACCIARDO

Be it PB&J or gourmet nibbles, everything's more fun to eat on a picnic. With these clever products—and some helpful hints from Hillary Heminway, co-author of *Picnics* (Gibbs Smith, 2007)—you'll be able to pack an al fresco meal with style.

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Steady Sticks. $30 for four glass holders and one bottle holder. 877-733-3683; *www.redenvelope.com.*

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Square Bento Box. $36. 323-655-1251; *www.plasticashop.com.*

NEON NECESSITIES
DeLuxe plastic cutlery. $120 for 16-piece set. 866-888-6677; *www.mossonline.com.*

FAST FOOD
Table Grill. $300. 323-655-1908; *www.fitzsu.com.*

DREAM WEAVE
Nantucket Picnic Basket. $136. 800-459-0208; *www.hancockbaskets.com.*

BETTER BAG
Insulated Bottle Holder. $15. 212-227-2044; *www.builtny.com.*

guide *to go*

Hillary Heminway's picnic tips:

THINK OUTSIDE THE BASKET. Items like pails, ice buckets and canvas totes are great for transporting picnic supplies.

PERFECT TRAVEL TECHNIQUE. Wax paper or butcher's paper and string go a long way when it comes to keeping sandwiches intact. Use a wide-mouth Thermos to hold soup, a beverage or a pasta dish. When preparing a salad, put the dressing on the bottom of the container and the other ingredients on top to avoid soggy greens.

BRING THE ESSENTIALS. Arm yourself with lemons, limes, citronella candles, salt, pepper and chopsticks, which can double as utensils and sticks to roast marshmallows on. ◆

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3 kitchens add room for dining

WRITTEN BY JEANNIE MATTEUCCI

PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE KASKEL

BEFORE: While the old kitchen offered decent storage space, the setup made preparing and serving meals quite a challenge.

AFTER: The homeowners' antique pine cupboard inspired the use of pine for a new hutch and the base of the new, more accessible center island.

1 family plan

The 320-square-foot kitchen in Steve and Sabrina Rabbitt's traditional Georgian home was not exactly easy to maneuver. "The awful layout was definitely our biggest challenge," says Mark T. White, CKD, owner and chief designer for Kitchen Encounters of Annapolis, Maryland. "It broke up the whole space. The owners wanted to open the kitchen up so it felt like the large space that it was." One change that significantly improved the floor plan was removing a closet and pantry that sat in the middle of the room. White also eliminated a peninsula that created a barrier between the kitchen and nearby breakfast table. Now Steve and Sabrina—who share their Annapolis home with their three children—had room for a center island with stools. "An eat-in kitchen is great, especially with kids. It makes it easier to serve meals and clean up," says White.

IN THE DETAILS

- **ISLAND** Designer Mark T. White dressed up the island with wainscotting and placed it on ball feet to make it seem like a piece of furniture. It's used daily for meals and as a buffet during parties. It has lots of storage, including three wide, deep drawers and two cabinets with roll-out shelves for pots and serving trays.
- **APPLIANCES** Steve and Sabrina told White they wanted their new kitchen to have a larger refrigerator, pro-style range and second oven. "We included the second oven to the right of the refrigerator and raised it up to make it more accessible," says White. Columns on each side of the range slide out to reveal storage racks for spices.
- **FLOORING** The owners decided to refinish and patch their existing hardwood floor. "The kitchen is open to the rest of the house, so it made sense to keep the wood throughout," says White. "It also adds a warm, welcoming feel." →

SEE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

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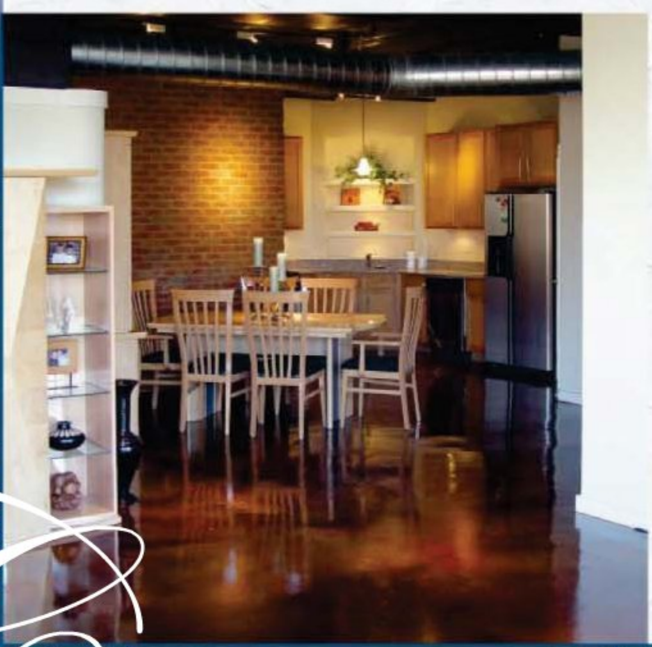

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Although Andreas and Dorita Raczynski of McLean, Virginia, had a place where they could grab a quick bite in their 187-square-foot kitchen, the conditions were not ideal. "The peninsula was added during a previous remodel and it was pretty much just squeezed in," says interior designer Leslie Roosevelt of Gilday Renovations in Silver Spring, Maryland. Adding length to the kitchen and widening a doorway between the kitchen and dining room made the space more inviting and comfortable. Walls and doors were removed to bring in more natural light. Gaining two feet in width, Roosevelt now had room to create a more pleasant dining area in the new center island. "We looked at several different designs to get to this," says Roosevelt. "Dorita loved the simplicity of it—it works as a buffet or for the grandkids to eat breakfast."

IN THE DETAILS

- **BACKSPLASH** Choosing white ceramic tile for the backsplash was one of the easier decisions. "Dorita didn't want to bring attention to the wall but knew she needed to protect the area behind the cooktop," says designer Leslie Roosevelt.
- **CABINETS** White-painted Shaker-style cabinets lighten up the look and feel of the room. "Dorita wanted a neutral backdrop," says Roosevelt. "These have a very simple door that reads contemporary, not country. The stainless steel pulls give it an industrial look."
- **COUNTERTOPS** The sand-colored countertops are made from a quartz-based solid surfacing material. "The advantage is that it has the same properties as granite but it's a lot more uniform in color," says Roosevelt. "Dorita thought food looked good on the color, too. She put a tomato next to the sample and said, 'See how pleasing that looks.'" →

BEFORE: With a boxy shape and dark, traditional cabinets, the old kitchen didn't match the rest of the modern home.

AFTER: Creating a better dining area was crucial in the new 240-square-foot modern European-style kitchen.

PHOTOGRAPH: GREG HADLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

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BEFORE: Only 24 inches wide, the old island was much too small to accommodate stools and serve daily meals comfortably.

AFTER: "Appliances were not a big priority," says designer Cheryl Clendenon. "The owners put their money into creating a pretty kitchen. They wanted to be able to sit and eat in the kitchen and enjoy it."

3 finer diner

When a professional couple with three young sons decided to renovate the 225-square-foot kitchen in their traditional-style brick home in Pensacola, Florida, they had very specific goals for their project. At the top of their list: Add casual dining space. "Creating seating in the kitchen was the big driving force of the remodel," says designer Cheryl Kees Clendenon, owner of In Detail Kitchen and Bath of Pensacola. "They have a dining room but wanted a more casual eating area in the kitchen." Removing cabinets and a rarely used desk area on one wall allowed Clendenon to add a stand-alone hutch and butler's pantry. The couple now have better storage and space for a larger island with three stools—the perfect spot for casual meals or a quick bite after school. "The net gain of having the wider island was more important than losing those cabinets or unused countertops," says Clendenon. ◆

IN THE DETAILS

◆ **ISLAND** Created for dining but also wonderful for a buffet, the 41-inch-wide island features open and closed storage and a warming drawer. Its tabletop is made from distressed black walnut.

◆ **CABINETS** The painted and glazed maple cabinets have bronze hardware that complements the kitchen's hammered copper farmhouse sink. Designer Cheryl Kees Clendenon included glass fronts on some of the pale green cabinets and added a plate rack for display. Crown molding gives the perfect finishing touch.

◆ **LIGHTING** Improving the overall light scheme was important. Recessed fixtures, under-cabinet lights and decorative pendants over the island illuminate the task areas and make the space comfortable and inviting.

PHOTOGRAPH: STORYBOOK STUDIOS

SEE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

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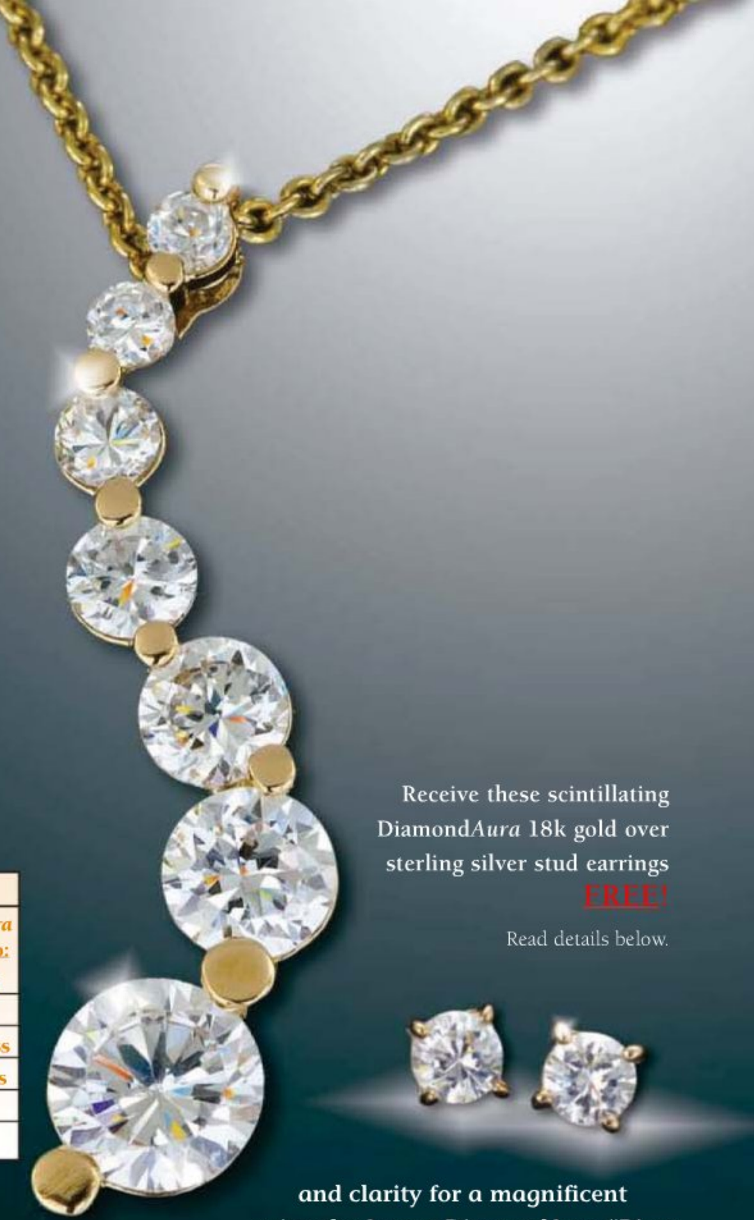

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VOLUME XVII ■ NUMBER 4

A DIP INTO THE DIGITAL AGE—WHEN ALMOST all our needs are a button-press away—inspired our Design Showcase, built for display at the 2007 Kitchen/Bath Industry Show, held recently in Las Vegas. Using her own hands-on approach, designer Ingrid Leess worked with the editors of Woman's Day Special Interest Publications and *Home* magazine on this innovative design. With an array of new cabinets from Armstrong, plus its hardwood flooring and laminate ceiling panels, and input from the American Hardwood Information Center, this year's Design Showcase features forward-reaching ideas, striking use of color and space, and joyously inviting comfort.

digital dreams

NOT JUST FOR SHOW, THESE IDEA-RICH SPACES RIDE THE WAVE OF DESIGN TODAY—INTO TOMORROW

DESIGNED AND STYLED BY INGRID LEESS
PRODUCED AND WRITTEN BY MERVYN KAUFMAN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN GOULD BESSLER

LEFT: Stained cypress siding, decking and door trim create a gracious entry lit by a lantern-style light. Linked to the door-chime button is a camera that will flash a visitor's image to anyone inside the kitchen.

RIGHT: Packed with amenities, the message center, inside the doorway, is like a traditional entry hall—but stocked with storage cabinets and places to display favorite photos and colorful containers.

BELOW: This tall, slim wall cabinet is fitted out with shallow shelves for notes and mail, plus a trio of hooks in the door for keys.

BOTTOM: One base cabinet pulls open to reveal a paper shredder and shred-collecting trash bin.

welcome

SHADE-MOUNTED FRENCH DOORS OPEN INTO INVITING AREAS OF EFFICIENCY AND CHARM

Pressing the door chime activates a security camera, and passing through the doors draws you into a design in which every inch of space is put to use. Just inside is a cushioned bench for changing out of your outdoor footwear. Beside it is a stand-up message center where you can make calls, recharge your cell phone, collect mail and file your bills and other key papers. The white-flecked blue quartz countertop is a welcoming splash of color.

Two different cabinet finishes and tones add contrast to this intimate setting. The cabinet interiors are fitted out with conveniences—here, hooks for keys and a paper shredder on a roll-out shelf. A tall mirror hangs so that you can see how you look before you pass through the doorway.

Resources

CYPRESS TRIM/SIDING/DECKING: Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association

STAINS: Black Walnut (trim); Birch Bark (siding); Pewter Gray (deck), Thompson's Water Seal.

VIDEO MONITORING CAMERA: Broan-NuTone.

LIGHTING: Branford Outdoor Wall Lantern/cabinet interior and undercabinet lights, Sea Gull Lighting.

DOORS: Outswing French doors, with between-the-glass pewter blinds/satin nickel hardware, Pella.

CEILING: Wood Haven, in Classic White, Armstrong.

BASE CABINETS: Moderno maple, in Cafe, Armstrong.

HANDLES: Centinel, in black, Atlas Homewares.

WALL CABINETS: Moderno maple, in Espresso, Armstrong.

KNOBS: Centinel, in black, Atlas Homewares.

METAL DOORS/FROSTED GLASS: Armstrong.

PULLS: Centinel in brushed nickel, Atlas Homewares.

COUNTERTOP: Marina Stellar Leather (perimeter)/Blanco Maple Leather (island), Silestone.

FLOOR: Binghampton, in maple, Armstrong.

RUG: Thick and Thin carpet tiles, in Robin's Egg/Cream, Flor.

BENCH CUSHION: Martin, in houndstooth/onyx, Waverly.

MIRROR: Patchwork by Todd Oldham for La-Z-Boy.

PULL-OUT STEEL SHELVING: Rev-A-Shelf.

DESK ACCESSORIES/KEY HOOKS: The Container Store.

DINNERWARE: CorningWare Creations.

kitchen

A TWO-SIDED ISLAND IS THE FOCUS OF AN L-SHAPED KITCHEN WITH

THREE WORK AREAS AND A SPOT FOR SNACKING

Resources

CYPRESS TRIM: Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association.

STAIN: Black Walnut, Thompson's WeatherSeal.

WALL CABINETS/ROLLING CABINET: Moderno maple, in Espresso/steel doors with frosted glass, Armstrong.

BASE CABINETS: Moderno maple, in Cafe, Armstrong.

HARDWARE: Successi, in brushed nickel, Atlas Homewares.

COUNTERTOPS: Blue Safita (perimeter)/Blanco Maple Leather (island), Silestone.

FLOOR: Binghampton, in maple, Armstrong.

RUG: Thick and Thin carpet tiles, in Robin's Egg/Cream, Flor.

BACKSPLASH: Tile, in Satin Sheets, Crossville.

LIGHTING: Cabinet lights/Feather Blue Mono pendants, Sea Gull Lighting.

EXHAUST HOOD: Best by Broan, Broan-NuTone.

BIG/SMALL APPLIANCES: Sears/Kenmore.

FAUCET: Oscar, in chrome/black, Graff.

FILTRATION FAUCET: Everpure.

LAPTOP COMPUTER: Dell.

TV: 20-inch Aquos/DVD player, Sharp.

ACCESSORIES: Bodum, Caldrea, Chicago Cutlery, Corelle, CorningWare Creations Cookware, Lifetime Brands, The Container Store, Typhoon.

LEFT: A flat-screen TV, for viewing favorite cooking shows, is tucked into an open wall cabinet. At the near end of the island is a rolling unit big enough for a laptop computer that can hold a bank of recipes or be the perfect spot for a youngster to do homework. This cabinet, on casters, can be pushed wherever needed.

LEFT: A quartz-topped cabinet on casters, with shelves for books and boxes for recipes, can be moved where needed or pressed flush against the island. The laptop is also portable, ensuring that no one at work here is ever cut off from outside business.

RIGHT: The chef center has drawers for pots and pans plus two narrow pull-out cabinets for hanging utensils and special cookware—all topped by a professional-style six-burner cooktop set into a white-speckled blue quartz countertop.

"The space is visually playful," says designer Ingrid Leess, pointing to "a mix of colors and contrasts" in what is truly a 21st-century kitchen, beginning with smooth-front cabinets and large, easy-grip handles. "Ergonomics in a kitchen is important," says Rob Glenn, Armstrong Cabinets' marketing director. "Today, people want kitchens flexible enough to be classrooms, craft centers, libraries and work centers, with different zones to prep, cook, clean, store and entertain." Here, two pro-style wall ovens complement the equally professional six-burner cooktop. Plus, there is a microwave on the counter and a dishwasher and trash compactor tucked into the adjacent island. All have a sleek stainless-steel finish.

The centerpiece of the chef center is a glass-and-steel lighted exhaust hood whose asymmetrical shape gives it the look of wall sculpture. Above it, wood-grain laminate panels in a lowered ceiling define the cooking zone. Narrow wall cabinets flanking the hood pull out, when needed, to display steel-banded shelves for spices. Base cabinets are fitted out for space-saving storage, starting with carousel shelving in the corner—to eliminate stooping to find needed utensils—and roll-out under-sink shelving that holds cleaning products and trash containers.

Resources

WALL CABINETS/PORTABLE CABINET: Moderno maple, in Espresso/steel doors with frosted glass, Armstrong.

BASE CABINETS: Moderno maple, in Cafe, Armstrong.

HARDWARE: Successi, in brushed nickel, Atlas Homewares.

COUNTERTOPS: Blue Safita (perimeter)/Blanco Maple Leather (island), Silestone.

FLOOR: Binghampton, in maple, Armstrong.

RUG: Thick and Thin carpet tiles, in Robin's Egg/Cream, Flor.

BACKSPLASH: Tile, in Satin Sheets, Crossville.

LIGHTING: Cabinet and under-cabinet lights/Feather Blue Mono pendants, Sea Gull Lighting.

EXHAUST HOOD: Best by Broan, Broan-NuTone.

COOKTOP/WALL OVENS/ MICROWAVE/COOKWARE/ UTENSILS: Sears/Kenmore.

LAPTOP COMPUTER with detachable keyboard, Dell.

TV: 20-inch flat-screen Aquos/ DVD player, Sharp.

ACCESSORIES: Bodum, Chicago Cutlery, CorningWare Creations Cookware, Lifetime Brands, The Container Store, Typhoon.

LEFT: White ripple-textured tile in 12-inch squares forms a backsplash behind the cooktop. An asymmetrical glass-and-steel exhaust hood is a sculptural touch that is also highly functional. A flat-screen TV in an angled open shelf ensures that the cook can play a DVD or access a favorite cooking show.

LEFT: With a trash compactor at one end and a dishwasher at the other, no one doing cleanup needs to take more than a few steps to get the job done. Visible beyond the island are cypress-trimmed French doors whose tiltable shades are snapped in place between layers of glass.

ABOVE: A clear image of whoever is at the door is an aid for anyone at work in the kitchen. This versatile video unit can be linked to other cameras and also includes a hands-free speaker phone, cable TV and radio.

Design Cues

- ◆ The kitchen is subtly divided into three distinct zones: a chef center, a meal-prep area and a spot for cleanup.
- ◆ Stainless steel on appliances and some cabinet doors supplies needed variety and interest, interrupting the expanse of wood cabinetry that would otherwise appear here.
- ◆ Hardwood flooring in a deliberately light tone has a dual effect: It opens up the space and also serves to unify all of the various zones.

Drawers beneath the cooktop hold deep pots and pans; the tall pull-out cabinets flanking the drawers have hanging storage for shallow cookware.

The kitchen's long wall, with double ovens and a built-in side-by-side refrigerator/freezer, flows into the lounge area, which is a combination family room, conversation area and media center. Because of the openness of our design, entertaining at home is easy in this space-conscious setting: Anyone at work in the meal-prep zone need never turn around or leave the scene when the door chime sounds. Instead, a glance at the small-scale video screen mounted under one wall cabinet will reveal who is ringing the chime.

The center island—a cleanup area on one side, a place to enjoy snacks on the other—runs nearly the full length of the kitchen. A faucet with pull-out spout is installed here beside a smaller arched spout that supplies filtered water. The stainless-steel double sink is undermounted. Installed beneath the larger square sink is a big-capacity waste disposer. There is also a rack for dish towels and a roll-out shelf for cleaning products. Overhead, a trio of tubular pendant fixtures supplies task lighting for this normally busy area.

Wall ovens and a refrigerator/freezer are wrapped in cabinetry. Tray storage is above the refrigerator; a pantry with fold-out shelves is beside it. Pegs and slots inside drawers let tableware be stacked or stood on edge.

Resources

CYPRESS TRIM: Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association.

STAIN: Black Walnut, Thompson's WeatherSeal.

WALL CABINETS: Moderno maple in Espresso/steel doors with frosted glass, Armstrong.

BASE CABINETS: Moderno maple in Cafe, Armstrong.

HARDWARE: Successi in brushed nickel, Atlas Homewares.

COUNTERTOPS: Blue Safita (perimeter)/Blanco Maple Leather (island), Silestone.

FLOOR: Binghampton in maple, Armstrong.

RUG: Thick and Thin carpet tiles in Robin's Egg/Cream, Flor.

BACKSPLASH: Tile in Satin Sheets, Crossville.

LIGHTING: Cabinet and under-cabinet lights/Feather Blue Mono pendants, Sea Gull Lighting.

EXHAUST HOOD: Best by Broan, Broan-NuTone.

APPLIANCES/SMALL APPLIANCES: Sears/Kenmore.

VIDEO DOOR ANSWERING MONITOR, Broan-NuTone.

FAUCET: Oscar in chrome/ black, Graff;

FILTRATION FAUCET: Everpure.

SINK: Avado Collection double-bowl undermount in stainless steel, Elkay.

DISPOSER: Evolution Excel, InSinkErator.

LAPTOP COMPUTER with detachable keyboard, Dell.

TV: 20-inch flat-screen Aquos/ DVD player, Sharp.

FRENCH DOOR: Between-the-glass pewter blinds/satin nickel hardware, Pella.

ACCESSORIES: Bodum, Caldrea, Chicago Cutlery, Corelle, CorningWare Creations Cookware, Lifetime Brands, The Container Store, Typhoon.

media

COMFORT IS AT THE HEART OF THE DINING-WHILE-VIEWING AREA

It's a family room, with sectional seating that can be shifted and easily rearranged when needs change. It's also a dining area, with a circular glass-topped table that can adjust up when food is served and, at the push of a lever, drop down when all the dishes are cleared. Walls here are a paintable raised-pattern wallpaper we painted brown, which picks up on the rich coffee tone of the kitchen's wall cabinets.

LEFT: Placed in front of a handsomely curtained double window is a large sectional that can be arranged for talk, lounging, dining or TV viewing. Here, the adjustable table is raised for dining.

ABOVE: The glass-topped table is lowered to coffee-table height. This all-purpose table is as right for computer games as floral displays and sturdy enough to be a footrest for an evening-long TV film fest.

BELOW: The office wall has two coats of blue on its paintable raised-pattern wallpaper surface. The cupboards are fitted out to hold hanging files, the computer tower and other home-office essentials.

Adjacent to the TV viewing area is a fully equipped home office—a functional area with recessed-panel cupboards and drawers, open shelves for container storage and glassed-in upper cabinets for items to keep an eye on. Frosted glass reveals only shapes and colors, a sign that vigilant neatness is not essential. A 20-inch desktop monitor indicates that this is the business hub of the home.

Resources

WINDOW: Casement, Pella.

WALL/WINDOW TREATMENT: Paintable, strippable wallpaper/curtain panels (Curvature in Black Caviar), Waverly.

FLOOR: Binghampton, in maple, Armstrong.

LIGHTS: Globe pendant/cabinet lights, Sea Gull Lighting.

SECTIONAL SEATING: Chaise, wedge, armless chairs (Kate style in Loft fabric in Robin's Egg Blue), all by Todd Oldham for La-Z-Boy.

ADJUSTABLE TABLE: 40-inch Woody table, Hydra Designs.

CABINETS: Desk/upper solid-door (Arborcrest cherry, in Crystal)/upper glass-door (Arborcrest cherry, in Mocha/frosted glass), Armstrong.

HARDWARE: Centinel knobs, in black, Atlas Homewares.

COUNTERTOP: Tebas Black Leather, Silestone.

DESKTOP COMPUTER/MONITOR/SUB-WOOFER: Dell.

DECORATIVE BOXES: The Container Store.

The computer's tower unit stands on a sliding shelf in the cabinet to the immediate right of the chair, and the chair itself can be pulled into the media zone when extra seating is called for.

Flanked by sconce lights mounted on a white raised-pattern wallpapered wall, the 65-inch TV and DVD player are powerful magnets, providing visual impact for visiting friends and family. Beneath the TV is a paintable cabinet, here turned out in a compelling shade of blue mimicked by squares in the checkerboard of carpet tiles that add accents to the hardwood floor. The cabinet has four cupboards designed to hold a music system, racks of CDs and DVDs, plus games and entertaining essentials.

The adjacent wall, covered in faux stone set by hand in a realistic random pattern, is the richly textured background for the butler's pantry and bar. Upper cabinets hold glassware and serving pieces. On either side of the single base cabinet is a wine chiller and a beverage center. Behind the drop-in stainless-steel bar sink are two faucets, one that delivers filtered water.

Design Cues

- Despite the obvious dominance of a giant TV, this area is equipped for entertaining on many levels: enjoying food and drink, hearing music or viewing the screen.
- Decorative lighting is placed so that each area has its own special identity.
- Open design means anyone paying bills, using a computer or just kicking back is close to whoever is preparing food in the kitchen.

OPPOSITE: Conveniently sited, the butler's pantry/bar area has undercounter appliances for chilled wine, soda and juices. The wall behind the two-tone upper cabinets is faced with faux stone, a durable material that is suitable for indoor as well as outdoor installation.

BELOW: The focus of the all-purpose media zone is the flat-screen wall-hung TV centered over a blue-painted storage cabinet. Baseboard units beside the cabinet supply heat as needed. The wall is papered in a white raised-pattern covering.

Resources

WALL CABINETS: Arborcrest cherry, in Crystal/Arborcrest cherry, in Mocha/frosted glass, Armstrong.

HARDWARE: Centinel knobs, in black (wall cabinets); Centinel pulls, in brushed nickel (base cabinets), Atlas Homewares.

BASE CABINETS: Arborcrest cherry, in Crystal, Armstrong.

LIGHTS: Wall cylinders/interior cabinet lights, Sea Gull Lighting.

PAINTED CABINET: Tiara, in maple, Armstrong.

COUNTERTOP: Gris Expo Leather, Silestone.

BASEBOARD HEATING: Two-tube units, in Grey Blue, Runtal.

FAUX STONE WALL: Alderwood Stacked, Eldorado Stone.

SIDE TABLE/TABLE LAMP: Todd Oldham for La-Z-Boy.

UNDERCOUNTER APPLIANCES: Wine chiller/beverage center, Sears/Kenmore.

DROP-IN BAR SINK: Asana, in brushed stainless steel, Elkay.

FAUCET: Cammaro, in brushed nickel, Graff.

FILTRATION FAUCET: Everpure.

PAINTABLE STRIPPABLE WALLPAPER: City Windows, Waverly.

FLOOR: Binghampton maple, Armstrong.

RUG: Carpet tiles in solid colors, Flor.

ESPRESSO MACHINE: Granos, in chrome finish, Bodum.

TV: 65-inch flat-screen Aquos, Sharp.

DVD PLAYER: Marantz.

bath

LEFT: Sconce lights mounted on either side of a tall mirror are placed for maximum effectiveness for anyone shaving or applying makeup. The shower curtain at far left picks up on the green leaf motif that is seen in other parts of the room.

PALE CABINETS AND ACCENTS PLUCKED FROM NATURE MAKE THIS A SERENE SPACE

LEFT: Secured to the shower stall's tile wall is a glass-and-steel shower seat designed for the woman who likes to shave her legs here or a bather transferred from a wheelchair. The roughened tile floor is slip-proof and safe.

RIGHT: The shower seat can be folded flat when not needed. Its straight lines and angles contrast neatly with the curve of the giant shower spray.

Tile in a neutral tone—glossy on the walls, matte-surfaced on the shower floor—sets a quiet mood for this cool and inviting space. The vanity, actually a wall cabinet on legs, is topped with a 1½-inch-thick quartz surface whose edges are elegantly bullnosed. Set into it is a round stainless-steel sink with a shiny, light-reflecting hammered surface. Matching its brightness are a contemporary-styled faucet and handles in a traditional chrome finish.

The shower, which can be accessed from either side of the vanity wall, is a generous-size enclosure with a ceiling of soft-colored laminate panels. The principal shower spray pours dramatically out of a semiarched fitting that ends in a huge square spray surface—a striking new take on the rainshower style. On two levels flanking the shower handles are body sprays, making the prospect of bathing here a beautiful spalike experience.

Resources

CABINETS: Arborcrest cherry in Crystal (legs added on vanity/Seedy glass inserts in wall units), Armstrong.

HARDWARE: Small bamboo knobs/Lola Collection towel rods in polished chrome/ Lola Collection shower wall shelf, Atlas Homewares.

CEILING: Wood Haven, in Light Ash, Armstrong.

TILE: Polo Polished (walls)/ Polo Textured (shower floor), Crossville.

HARDWOOD FLOOR: Merbau, Armstrong.

WINDOW: Casement, with Lasso decorative panel, Pella.

BASEBOARD HEATING: Two-tube style, in almond, Runtal.

LIGHTS: Bliss sconces, in chrome, Sea Gull Lighting.

COUNTERTOPS: Blanco Capri Leather, Silestone.

SINK: Specialty Collection oval undermount (hammered mirror finish), Elkay.

FITTINGS: Targa widespread lavatory faucet/Ski shower (square model), Graff.

SHOWER SEAT: Shower-wall mounted shower seat, Bristol and Bath.

CYPRESS TRIM/WINDOW CASING: Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association.

PAINT: Super White on trim, Thompson's WaterSeal.

ACCESSORIES: Caldrea, The Container Store.

ABOVE LEFT: A narrow corridor beside the vanity has wall- and base-cabinet storage for towels, bath essentials and cleaning products. The window, with its patterned privacy screen, bathes the space in natural light. Baseboard heating beneath the window keeps this bath agreeably warm.

RIGHT: Pressed leaves and stems set into white frames add to the bathing area's soothing color palette. Much of the room features wallpaper in a grasscloth pattern. Green towels are draped on a wall-hung towel warmer.

OPPOSITE: The tub deck, which frames the white set-in air-jet whirlpool, is quartz; the tile apron, like the shallow step-up into the tub, is 4×12-inch tile set in a random pattern—glossy tiles on the apron, matte-finish tiles to prevent slipping underfoot. Pendant lights at two levels are suspended above the tub.

ABOVE: A candle, a bar of soap and cut greenery in a shallow bowl create a beauty spot on the tub deck, an inviting gesture for anyone eager to end the day being massaged by warm bubbling water.

Comfort and warmth in a refreshing, soothing space—that's what designer Ingrid Lees envisioned when laying out the bath area. The toilet occupies a niche near the tub installation with its leaf-and-stalk arrangements and framed pressed leaves as art. The wallpaper's grasscloth pattern blends with the nature-influenced setting.

Taking the green theme one step further, a pair of green towels are draped on a wall-mounted towel warmer that also heats the area. Here, as in other parts of the showcase, the windows have shades that snap in between layers of glass. At the touch of a finger on a conveniently placed button, the shades can be raised or lowered and tilted open or shut. A flat-screen TV has a niche on the wall beside the tub. Depending on positioning, it can be viewed from almost any part of the bath. ◆

Resources

WINDOW: Double casement with between-the-glass pleated shade, in Tortilla/ satin-nickel hardware, Pella.

TUB: Andrea 8, in white (heated/whirlpool/aroma therapy), MTI Whirlpools.

FITTINGS: Targa Roman Tub Faucet, in polished chrome (with handset/built-in diverter), Graff.

TILE: Ivory Coast Leather (tub deck)/Polo Polished (tub apron)/Polo Textured (tile rug), Crossville.

HARDWOOD FLOOR: Merbau, Armstrong.

TOILET: Complete Tital One Piece, in white, Eljer.

TOILET-PAPER HOLDER: Lola Collection, Atlas Homewares.

WALLPAPER: Brushed Grass, in Natural, Waverly.

TOWEL WARMER: Electric Versus, in Almond, Runtal.

TV: 26-inch Aquos, on stand, Sharp.

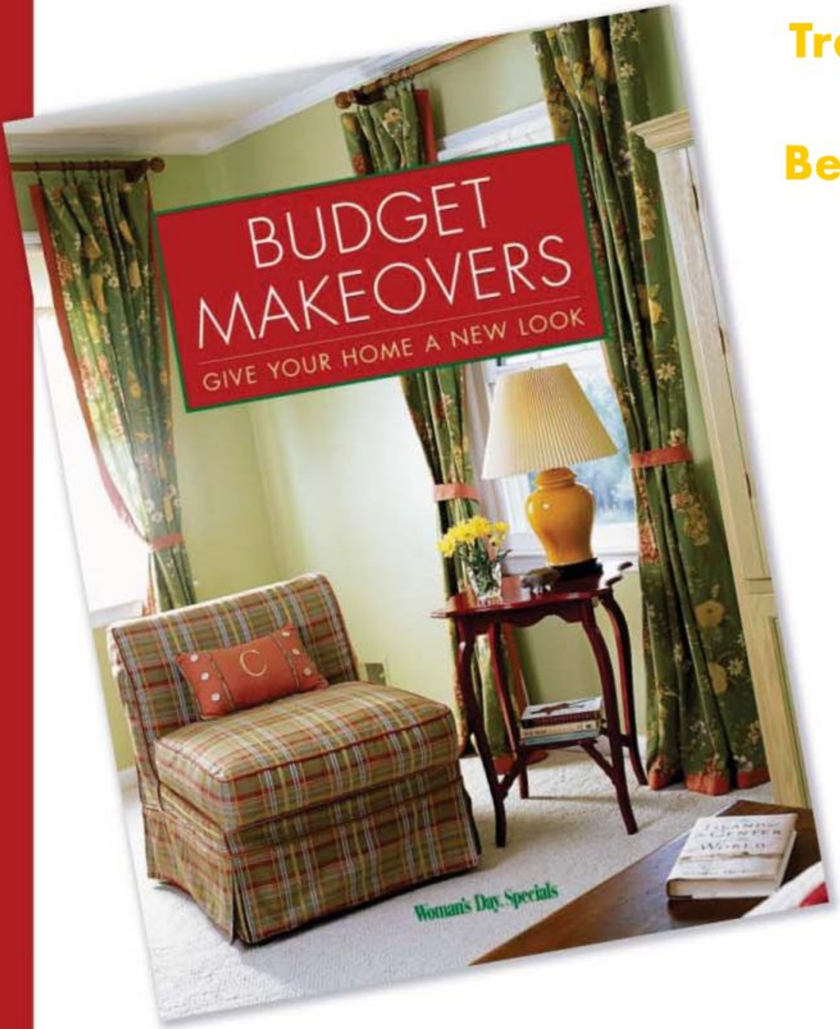
TOWEL BASKET: Woven cocoa, The Container Store.

SOAPS: Caldrea.

DesignCues

- Elegant surfaces—some smooth, some textured—add depth and interest to the bath's cool design.
- A richly colored hardwood floor grounds the space, providing contrast to the other lighter tones that prevail in the room.
- Bamboo cabinet knobs and giant palm fronds—in plantings and in a large-patterned shower-curtain fabric—give a gentle nod to nature here.

Advertisement



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KITCHENS & BATHS™

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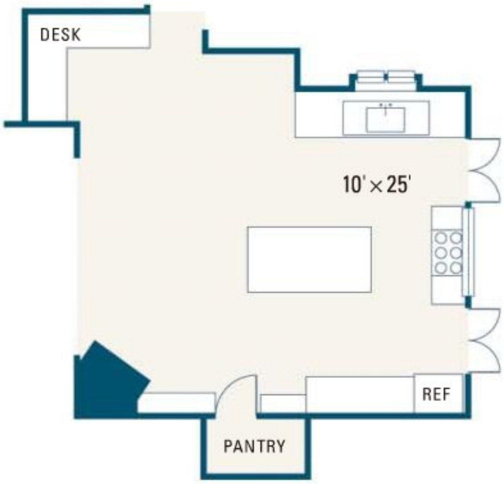
rise and shine

WRITTEN BY THERESA MCTAMMANY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEX HAYDEN
STYLED BY MICHELLE CRISTALLI

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

Prior to the remodel, this kitchen felt cramped. Now, at a spacious 10×25 feet, there's plenty of room. The design incorporates elements inspired by the homeowners' sabbatical in Italy.



LEFT: Disregard the gaps for the French doors and this kitchen is essentially a tidy U shape, with an abundance of room to maneuver and lots of places to work, thanks especially to the island-height table in the center.

A four-month-long sabbatical in Italy—including extended stays in a Tuscan farmhouse and a picturesque villa along the Amalfi coast—inspired this spirited great-room kitchen for a busy Seattle family of four. "I wanted a wonderful, magic space where the entire family could gather," says the wife, who had to make do with a cramped, confining kitchen for two years, all the while yearning for "one great big room that does everything."

In this instance, the "great big room" translates to a soaring light-filled addition designed by Seattle architect Geoff Prentiss. The centerpiece is a 10×25-foot kitchen that's nearly four times the size of its predecessor and chock-full of such family-friendly amenities as a fireplace, porch-turned-pantry, home office and a comfy gathering spot where the entire family can watch the big-screen TV.

A modest 10-foot bumpout attached to the west side of the house made the expansion possible. Besides gaining space, the new addition brings in loads of natural light, which can be a prized commodity in the often overcast Pacific Northwest. "Getting light into the room was a top priority," says Prentiss, who boldly vaulted the ceiling and inserted a 12-foot skylight along the ridge line above the cooking area. "It heightens the feeling of spaciousness." French doors and expansive view-framing windows above the sink invite more daylight into the kitchen and reinforce its indoor-outdoor connections.

FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

LEFT: The design delivers natural light in spades—and in style. The sink window extends to echo the dramatic cathedral ceiling, which includes a generous skylight. French doors on either side of the range brighten the room further.

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

LEFT: Imported from France, the range gives the space that extra European *je ne sais quoi*, in addition to offering such cooking-related niceties as its double ovens and hefty iron grates on the stovetop.

OPPOSITE: If the terra-cotta shelves behind the range look like something from an old facade, it's because that's precisely what they are. They came from a building that was torn down to make way for the convention center in Seattle.

Salvaged materials, which Prentiss says he used long before the term and style became fashionable, figure prominently in the mix. ("We called them found objects back then," he says.) Fragments of a terracotta cornice, remnants of a building razed to make way for Seattle's convention center, find new purpose as shelves above the stove. Sturdy aspen branches (a tree indigenous to the wife's home state of Utah) function as supports for open shelves throughout the space. A close inspection of the Saltillo-tiled floor reveals quirky stone-textured thresholds made of colorful pebbles collected from the family's travels. "The kids can point to a pebble and remember exactly where they picked it up," she says.

Cabinets and countertops attest to the wife's artistic sensibilities. The poured concrete countertops, which are virtually maintenance-free, are a practical choice. "I've always liked the color and texture," she says. When tin proved too costly for cabinets, less expensive steel provided an

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

PEREL

excellent substitute. After an initial dip in an acid wash, the panels were left outside to weather and oxidize.

An overscale picnic-style table replaces the conventional island as a place for prep work, craft projects and casual dining. Its top is a beautiful maple slab that was destined for a wood chipper before the homeowner stepped in and rescued it. "It sat in my garage for two years before we had a chance to use it," she says.

Obvious nods to the past include the handsome Lacanche range imported from France and a cast-iron farm sink similar to one the homeowner's Greek grandmother had. After spying a salvaged version of the sink the architect had stashed under his house, the homeowner persistently lobbied him to part with it. "I originally showed her that sink just as a style example," Prentiss says. "When she couldn't find one like it, she eventually wore me down." ◆

ABOVE: In place of an island, this picnic-style table handles prep duties, craft projects and casual get-togethers. The wife rescued the maple top from imminent destruction and stashed it away in her garage for two years.

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

design points

To recall the easy-going, old-fashioned charm of the Italian countryside and coast, this design employs a diverse range of products and materials. Some of these are antiques and found objects given a fresh life. In other cases, crafty workarounds simulate the aged look.

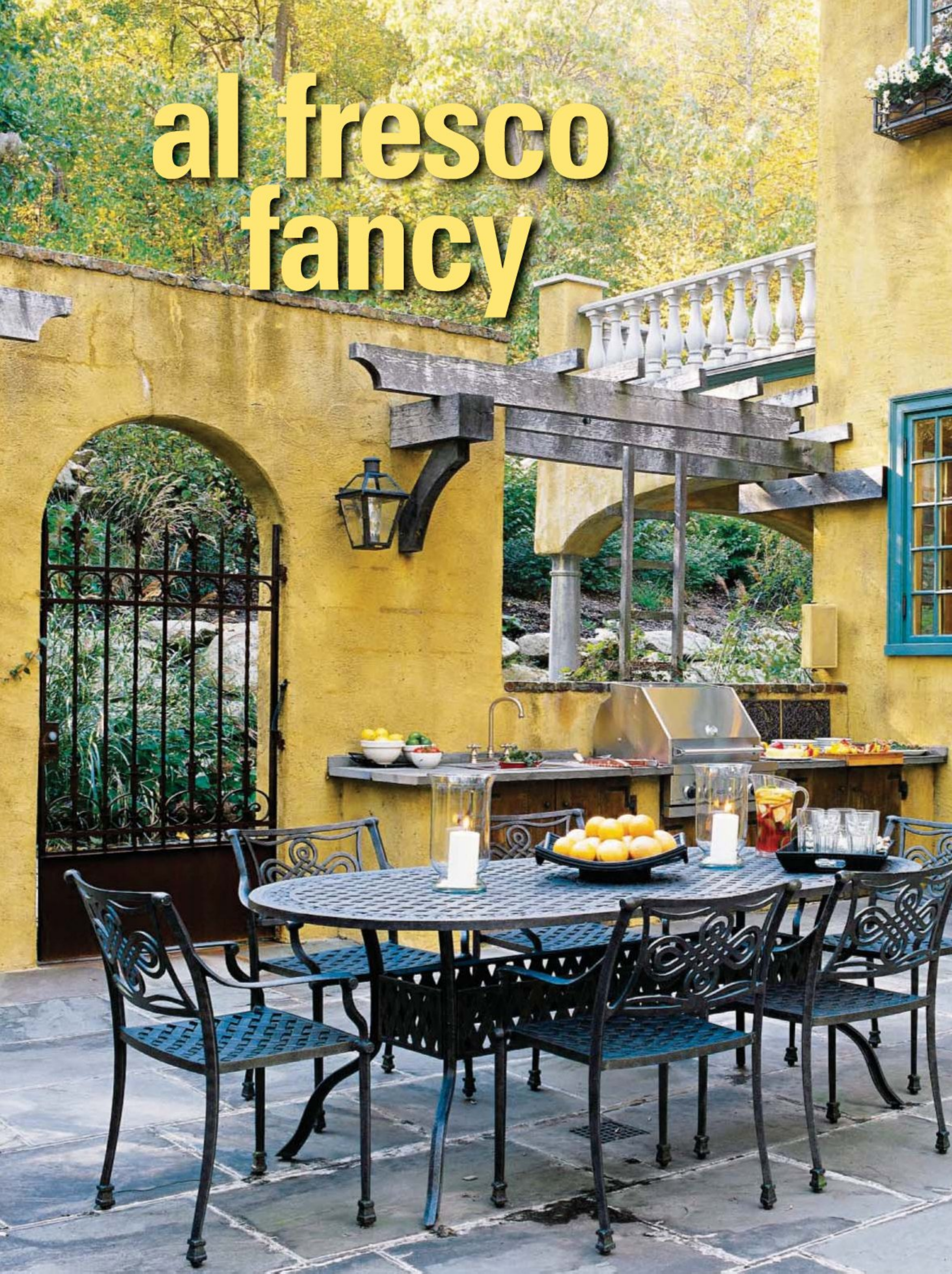
RETHINK When tin proved too pricey, the architect fashioned a substitute out of acid-dipped, weathered steel. The oxidized metal is plainly visible on the drawer fronts (right) and the range hood. The toekick also uses this steel, unifying the room from top to bottom and contrasting with the light wood cabinet doors.

REPLACE Although clad in undeniably modern stainless steel, even the refrigerator (right) contributes to the quaint atmosphere. Instead of keeping the standard handle, the architect chose one designed for exterior doors. "This space is all about found objects," he says.

RECYCLE Imparting the look of both age and a country setting is the vast cast-iron farmhouse sink (below left). At the wife's persistent urging, it was salvaged from under the architect's house, reconditioned, and put back into service.

REMEMBER As a nod to the wife's Utah upbringing, aspen branches—with bark intact—support open shelves throughout the space (below right). Aspen trees are indigenous to Utah.

al fresco fancy



Only a few steps away from the indoor kitchen and its full complement of conveniences, this walled patio invites warm-weather lingering over tasty grilled meals.

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

TUSCANY MEETS THE GREAT AMERICAN GRILL IN THIS COOK'S COURTYARD

WRITTEN BY THERESA McTAMMANY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY GRIDLEY & GRAVES

Once warm weather beckons, Roya Baraboury grabs a cup of coffee and the paper and heads outside to enjoy the rustic comforts of the European-inspired courtyard just outside her kitchen door. "It's a paradise," she says of the inviting space, with its thick hand-plastered walls, Tuscan arches, and timber pergolas newly planted with climbing hydrangeas. It is also exactly what the former resident of Italy was looking for when she stumbled upon the elegant stucco-clad villa two hours from New York City. Situated on an 11-acre tract of protected conservation land, "It's not the kind of house you expect to find in Bucks County," admits the owner, who moved in four years ago with her border collie, Sasha. "I had no idea something like this existed here."

The credit goes to architectural designer John Franklin, a fellow Bucks County, Pennsylvania, resident who shares Roya's old-world sensibilities and respect for the past. His unique designs, like sets in a Merchant Ivory production, resonate with such authenticity that many people are convinced the house has been there forever—a fact he delights in sharing.

"It's true: God is in the details," says the designer, who regularly scours New Orleans salvage dealers searching for grills, grates and other bits of architecture to use in his one-of-a-kind projects. Among the items purchased for the "Tuscan house," as he refers to Roya's home,

A simple galley layout satisfies the demands of casual al fresco cooking. All the appliances are outdoor rated, able to withstand the rigors of a Northeast winter. The bluestone counter is also impervious to the elements.

are divided-light windows and scrolling ironwork balconies that once belonged to Louisiana Governor Huey Long. "I like to work with things that have a history," he says of the salvaged pieces retrieved from Long's former mansion, located in Lafayette, Louisiana.

As expected, drywall and faux materials don't factor into the equation. Franklin prefers the old-world look to that of the current one, as evidenced by the thick walls with dramatic arched openings that serve as a barrier between the courtyard's interior and its parklike surroundings. The light-daubed ochre walls are the result of his signature stucco finish, a hand-troweled technique that simulates age.

However, when it is time to prepare a meal, modern conveniences win out over romantic ambience. The outdoor kitchen, equipped with a 36-inch Viking grill, stainless steel sink and hard-wearing bluestone counters allow family

ABOVE: The rectangular shape of the courtyard truly makes it an outdoor room of this house. Given this configuration, a straight run of counter devoted to food prep and cooking makes more sense than an island or angled design.

FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

design points

WHAT MAKES THIS OUTDOOR SPACE WORK

WEATHERPROOF Wrought iron's low carbon content makes it resistant to moisture. A latticework tabletop and chairs allow rainwater to drain away.

TEXTURE Locally quarried bluestone used on the floor of the courtyard has a textured surface that prevents grass and mud from being tracked inside.

TIMELESS Old gas lanterns flicker convincingly thanks to a propane tank concealed underground. Cabinet doors are made from salvaged lumber.

COMING CLEAN An outdoor shower is handy for washing the dog or rinsing off dirt after working in the garden.

ELEVATE Putting the fireplace on a plinth brings the flames into comfortable view and makes for easier fire tending—and marshmallow toasting.

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

"It's a paradise. I had no idea something like this existed here."

ABOVE: Discreetly tucked into a corner to facilitate drainage, an antique-style shower refreshes in this rustic setting.

LEFT: Thick stucco walls of varying heights and arched doorways act as "windows" to the surrounding forest. Fragments of a weathered arbor add to the ambience of an old villa in delicious decay.

and friends to come together, whether they're flipping burgers, chopping vegetables or just relaxing. Last fall, Roya invited 40 friends for an authentic Persian-style barbecue that was served under the star-filled night sky. "We did the prep work outside," she says. "You could still smell the roses in October."

The same casual attitude extends to furnishings: a few large pieces that form a flexible foundation for al fresco entertaining. A latticework table designed to seat six easily stretches to accommodate an extra guest or two. "I'm a huge fan of wrought iron because it requires zero maintenance," she says.

At the first hint of a chill, guests gather round the hearth, a stone fireplace that's elevated for easy viewing. As dusk approaches, the lanterns (another of Franklin's salvage finds) are lit and warm drinks are passed around. "It can get pretty dark when the moon isn't out," Roya says, explaining the fixtures are propane fueled "so they flicker like candles."

With no intention of moving, Roya took legal steps necessary to keep her 11 acres free from encroaching development. "I had the property qualified as a reserve," she says of the lifelong commitment. "It's protected forever." ◆

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

cooking light

CLERESTORIES AND CORNER WINDOWS BRING THE OUTDOORS INSIDE THIS ROOM

WRITTEN BY NANCY A. RUHLING
PHOTOGRAPHS BY SAM GRAY
STYLED BY EILEEN EISELE

Geometry-rich windows surround the cooking area. The copper backsplash blocks only as much sun as necessary, allowing the cook to work unencumbered by glare.

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

FIVESTAR

design points

SEIZE THE DAYLIGHT

With bright natural light in abundance, architect Paul Lukez had to make sure surfaces would make the most of this condition while working well with each other. These are the strategies he used:

USE REFLECTIVE COLORS White cabinets and countertops reflect the sunshine, giving the room a vibrance that darker surfaces would have soaked up.

ADD COMPLEMENTARY HUES To avoid an uninterrupted field of stark white, the architect who designed the kitchen added amber-themed highlights, notably the copper backsplash and granite island top.

GO GLOSSY Black appliances act as another contrast to the cabinets and countertops, but instead of deadening the light, their glossy surfaces provide reflections that add to the overall brilliance of the space.

the most important element in Barry and Alison Braunstein's new kitchen didn't cost them a penny: natural light. Architect Paul Lukez of Somerville, Massachusetts, emphasized illumination, turning the addition to the Westin, Massachusetts, 1960s Colonial into a window on the world.

The focal point of the enlarged kitchen is the cooktop, where three windows with Frank Lloyd Wright–inspired geometries let in views of the garden. "We placed a large panel of acid-etched copper in the center of the wall, so the person preparing the meal could concentrate on cooking but still have side views of the landscape," Lukez says, adding that Wright was the inspiration for getting the right light. "We wrapped the corners in glass for a 3-D look and to take full advantage of the light."

Smaller windows in long, shallow banks on either side of the addition offer snippets of sky, and French doors lead to an inviting patio designed to coordinate with the kitchen. "Each window has its own view and its own story to tell," Lukez says. "There is never a dull moment. The longer you look, the more varied and vibrant the view."

The rest of the kitchen was designed to capitalize on all that natural light. Lukez

OPPOSITE: Wrapping windows around the corner essentially provides two views from one spot and takes maximum advantage of sunlight. Visually, corner windows add a sense of openness.

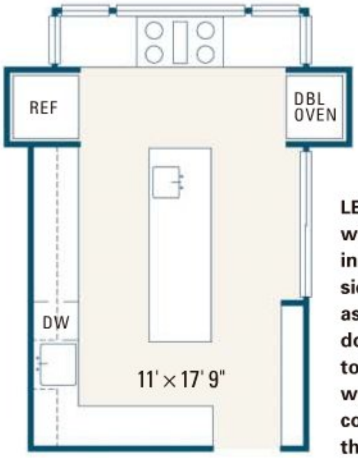
SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

“There’s never a dull moment. The longer you look, the more varied the view.”

selected an amber color palette, prominent in the cooktop’s copper backsplash and the island’s granite countertop. The glossy granite, along with the custom stainless steel vent hood and appliances, sparkle in the sunlight. The white cabinets and perimeter countertops present a blank canvas that artfully reflects the light. “The light adds a painterly quality to the space,” Lukez says, “and adds a whole new magical dimension.”

The Braunsteins like the sunny kitchen so much that they have turned it into the nerve center of the house. Barry, a real-estate lawyer and the chief cook, can’t wait to fix each “adventurous palate” meal. Alison, a voice-over actress, recently decided to move her computer to her kitchen desk, and the kids—15-year-old Brad and 12-year-old Meredith—well, they just like to hang out there.

“We love to entertain,” Barry says. “When we have elaborate dinner parties, we eat in the formal dining room, but I always set up the bar in the kitchen. It’s so much fun to be in the kitchen that sometimes our guests don’t want to leave it when dinner is served.” ◆



LEFT: More windows usher in light from both sides of the room, as do the French doors, which lead to a patio that was designed to coordinate with the kitchen decor.

FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

Not to be lost in all the sun is an economical kitchen layout. Two or more people could work here with no problem, thanks to a long span of countertop and a sizeable island top interrupted only by a prep sink.

"Since the backsplash is often the first thing someone notices when they enter a kitchen, it's a great place to have some fun and let your imagination run wild," says Nancy Epstein, founder of Artistic Tile in New York City. A well-designed backsplash can also alleviate some architectural shortcomings in your too-dark, too-small or too-short kitchen. We've rounded up a bevy of installations in a range of styles to inspire you. So pick your favorites and let the makeovers begin!

FACE VALUE
TOP: An irregular checkerboard pattern installation underscores the surreal quality of these Fornesetti-designed faces. Solid black squares allow the eye to rest.

SHINE ON
ABOVE: Mixing sizes and shapes within a single tile collection keeps a backsplash both lively and cohesive.

GLASSED IN
RIGHT: Rectangular tiles running upright on a wall can enhance the impression of height, even in confined spaces.

CENTER CUT
A band of bronze tiles forms the perfect material medium between the black granite counters and light wood cabinets. The horizontal orientation of the tile emphasizes the width of the room.

PHOTOGRAPHS: OPPOSITE TOP, BARDELLI TILE; OPPOSITE MIDDLE, URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY; OPPOSITE BOTTOM, OCEANSIDE GLASSTILE; THIS PAGE, ROCKY MOUNTAIN HARDWARE

great walls of tile

BUILD A BETTER BACKDROP SCENE

WRITTEN BY KELLI ACCIARDO

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

CONNECT THE DOTS
RIGHT: Diagonal lines give small areas the illusion of being larger. This classic black-and-white scheme fits comfortably into a traditional or modern kitchen.

SEE GREEN
BELOW: Graded glazing in a range of subtle shades moderates a tall, wide wall. A solid color treatment would be overpowering.

"To separate your counter from your cabinets, run a tile pattern vertically to make the backsplash space appear taller," says Epstein.

PHOTOGRAPHS: OPPOSITE ABOVE, MEREDITH TILE; OPPOSITE BELOW LEFT, WALKER ZANGER; THIS PAGE TOP, HAKATAI; MIDDLE, VITRIUM TILES; BELOW LEFT AND RIGHT, PRATT & LARSON

CHECK, MATE

RIGHT: A simple grid of mosaics mimics the dappling of light, and the random blend of cool, quiet colors bridges the countertop and cabinet hues.

FOIL EFFECT

BELOW: The large format of these tiles minimizes grout lines in the backsplash, an important factor in maintaining a sleek look in a contemporary kitchen. Ribbed lines in these glass tiles echo the design of the silver-trimmed storage cabinets above and the slender drawer handles below.

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

FAR LEFT: Textured tiles add dimension to a surface but are potential grime grabbers. Here, a staggered layout offsets the linear pattern of the ceramics.

COOL CONCEPT

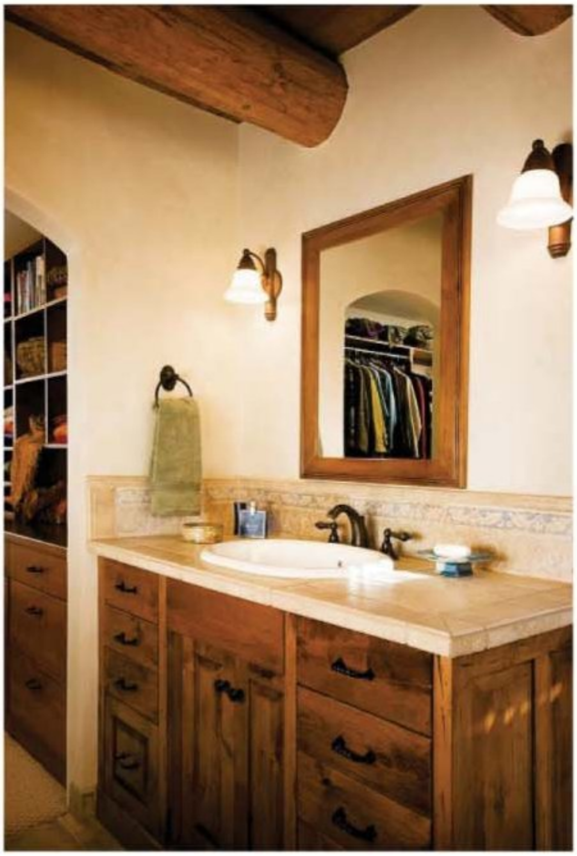
LEFT: By remaining within a single color family, a clever arrangement of square and oblong tiles avoids an over-the-top, chaotic appearance. ◆

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

A MASTER BATH
IS MARKED BY
SHADOWS AND LIGHT

UNDER THE DESERT SUN

WRITTEN BY NANCY A. RUHLING
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT RECK
STYLED BY MARY ELKINS



LEFT: Exposed beams of Douglas fir unify the bathing/toilet half of the room with the vanity area. The tub window echoes the arched doorway between the two areas.

ABOVE: Opposite the "hers" vanity is the linen closet. "It's a pretty big space," says homeowner Syndii McCreary. "I keep all kinds of things in there, but primarily linens."

RIGHT: Each vanity in the suite sports a straightforward design, with plenty of real estate on top for setting down grooming supplies and such, and equally generous cabinets for putting those items away.

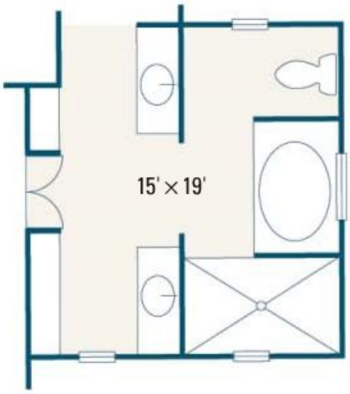
SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

Nestled in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Jeff and Syndii McCreary's four-level Pueblo Revival is essentially a grand tree house. Plentiful windows and skylights in the master bath permit the couple to revel in the creature comforts inside while enjoying the creatures outside.

"From the windows we can see all the critters—bobcats, mountain lions, coyotes, bunnies and birds," says Syndii. The 13-acre property, on a ridge adjacent to the Santa Fe National Forest, offers the utmost in privacy. "And in the summer, we get the very fragrant scent of natural sage and the pine trees."

Architect Jon Dick, of Sante Fe–based Archaeo Architects, designed the entire house. In the master bath, a skylight tops the tub, shower and toilet areas, allowing the McCrearys to get up close and personal with nature. A distinctive latticelike ceiling beneath the skylight creates a sort of cocoon. "The round *viga* beams and willow-twig *latillas* conceal the skylight, so all you see is dappled light," Dick says. As a standard roof covers the rest of the bath, this area has the feeling of a pergola.

The beams architecturally unite this space with the vanity area. An arched doorway, whose profile matches that of the window over the



LEFT: The wall that bisects the space leaves the tub exposed through the doorway, but both toilet and shower areas remain blissfully out of view in the corners behind both vanities. The room is adjacent to a master closet.

RIGHT: Wall sconces provide illumination when the sun goes down, but not too much. "We figured they wouldn't need the light that high at night," says architect Jon Dick. "So we kept it at a low level."

FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

The room is below grade, so by the tub "the ground is basically at window level," Syndii says. Enhancing the bathing experience further, "at night you can see the stars through the *latilla*. It's pretty spectacular."

"The shower is pretty open," Syndii says. "It's kind of like showering outside when the sun comes up." She also appreciates the shower's mosaic tile floor. "It adds texture to the room."

center of the whirlpool tub, creates a majestic entrance to this inner sanctum.

Deep-set mullioned windows with thick jambs that play with the light bring in the breezes, and sand-color walls and ceramic tile echo the earth tones of the dirt road outside.

"Light is the bath's defining element," Dick says. "And throughout the day, the light changes, giving the space different qualities."

All of this is not lost on the couple's nature-loving sons, who treat the house as a living learning lab. When they tire of the outside, 13-year-old Connor and 10-year-old Max, their pet dog, cat and two milk snakes in tow, troop up to the master bath to take in the views from this oasis in the sky.

"Sometimes they ask very politely if they can take a bath in the master suite," Syndii says. "They love it as much as we do. I like to look at the patterns of light on the plaster. The sunsets are spectacular. We have what we call Sunset Watch, and we all stop whatever we are doing to view it. And at night, I can see the moonlight and the stars." ◆

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

design points

A SYMPHONY FOR FOUR WOODS

Architect Jon Dick laid down a base of earth-tone surfaces, with four different wood species, in various guises, providing contrast throughout the room.

ALDER Although technically a hardwood—meaning it comes from a deciduous tree—alder is actually relatively soft. Regardless of classification, it harmonizes visually with other species. "Some people don't like its natural finish, but it does take stain very nicely," Dick says. The vanities (below), linen closet and alcove shelves and cabinet (right) are all alder.

THE OTHER THREE Of the two softwoods—that is, they're cut from evergreens—one is a star while the other plays an important bit part. The ceiling beams are Douglas fir, and the window frames are pine. The fourth wood, willow, co-stars as the lattice, or *latilla,* under the skylights in the bathing and toilet area.

PIGMENTED PLASTER Although the walls appear to be white in some parts (below) and off-white in others (above), they're all a sandy shade of pigmented plaster. "It's the nature of pigmented plaster to give off a variety of colors during the day depending on the color of the light," Dick says.

A SOUL-SOOTHING VISTA IS THE FOCUS OF THIS BATH

SOAKING IN SERENITY

WRITTEN BY MERVYN KAUFMAN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID DUNCAN LIVINGSTON
STYLING BY RUTH WELLS

LEFT: Furniture maker Craig Collins took his dresser design from that of traditional Japanese *tansu* chests. All of the wood here is mahogany, including the door—another Collins design—that opens into the master bedroom.

RIGHT: Architect Robin Pennell remodeled the raised bathing area after the Japanese-style *furo* that the homeowner recalls from her grandparents' home. Dry and wet areas are defined by the placement of wood and stone. A tall glass panel keeps water from the two-person shower from splashing onto the adjacent mahogany floor.

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

Like hot tubs, this 30×48-inch bathtub is always filled with water, which is automatically heated and recirculated. Corner windows above it provide unobstructed views of Mount Tamalpais and the homeowners' garden.

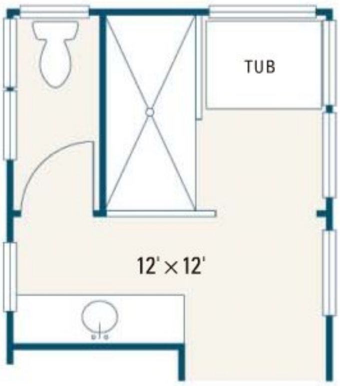
SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

The house, a two-story stuccoed Dutch Colonial built in the 1920s, was "really weird looking," recalls Masae Kawamura, one of its new owners. But she and her husband, Glen Gormezano, both physicians, were attracted by its generous interior spaces, the availability of sunlight and its "very sunny spot at the top of a hill." When they bought the Mill Valley, California, house in 1995, the year their younger son was born, they knew they were going to remodel it.

"We wanted to live in the house before we decided exactly how we wanted to change it," she says. When the time came, they turned to Robin Pennell of Jarvis Architects in Oakland. He designed a renovation that involved razing clumsy recent additions that were stuck to three sides of the house and adding a complementary two-story wing that made the 2,300-square-foot house one-third bigger. Within the addition was an all-new kitchen and, directly above it, an expanded master suite including a new bath.

"We simplified the exterior and the stucco work and actually pulled the house together," says Pennell. "It was kind of schizophrenic before, so we created a unifying theme, which happened to be Arts and Crafts." Masae's own Japanese heritage shaped the design of the master bath: She grew up in Hawaii and recalls that her grandparents' home included a *furo,* a traditional Japanese bath. "Having a *furo* meant that taking a bath was an experience, not just a way to get clean," says Masae. "The tub is deep; the water is still, though very hot. Entering the bath, you're really entering a sanctuary for relaxation—a spa-like experience."

What Pennell created for his affable but very demanding clients was a bathroom seamlessly connected to the walk-in closet and dressing room. The toilet occupies one niche; beside it a shower equipped for two is separated from the dressing area by ceiling-high glass. The *furo* occupies an entire corner, with windows offering views of the family's nearly half-acre natural garden plus distant Mount Tamalpais. Mahogany was used throughout: on the ceiling, on much



FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

LEFT: Much of the room's layout was determined by the rituals of Japanese-style bathing. After a shower, bathers soak in the adjacent hot-water tub.

design points

MATERIAL LESSONS

The serenity of the space is underscored by liberal use of beautiful woods and natural stone. There's an unspoken logic to their use:

DRY AREAS of the bath are indicated by mahogany plank flooring; wet areas, by pebbles set into a large mesh screen cut to fit (below). Once the mesh was in place, mortar was troweled around the pebbles and allowed to set. A flat-topped rock is used as a step to enter the bathtub.

IN THE SHOWER, which is separated from the *furo* tub by a sheet of tempered glass, a twin set of brushed-nickel fittings (above) lets one person enjoy twice the spray, or two people double up before taking a soak.

of the floor, on custom windows and trim. "Glen spent hours going through lumber lots to select the wood," says the architect. The tub, like the shower, was built of hand-set 6×12-inch stone tiles. The floor of the shower and the approach to the tub are pebbles set in mortar.

The tub itself functions more like a hot tub than a bathtub. "The water stays in there for several days," Pennell says. "They don't just fill it, use it and dump it. There is a heating system and a recirculating system controlled by faucet handles on the wall." Entering the tub requires a step up. "I found a slab at a place that sold stones, rocks and soil," Masae says. "This stone formed one of the steps leading up to a terrace. I surprised the owner by asking if the slab was for sale, explaining that what I wanted had to be natural looking. He finally agreed to sell it to me."

A San Rafael, California, furniture maker, Craig Collins, designed all the doors in the house and the kitchen cabinets plus the vanity in the bath and the chest in the dressing area. Throughout, he melded Asian ideas with Arts and Crafts simplicity. "This was an incredible team project," says Pennell, who led a design operation that involved the furniture maker as well as the homeowners. "I could draw the fun, pretty pictures, but Glen tended to all the details—the wood and the stone. He wanted to make my design work."

"For my husband," says Masae, "everything had to be just right. That's why it turned out so well. We didn't make any mistakes and really enjoyed what we did." ◆

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

The mahogany vanity, another Craig Collins design, is double size, but the homeowners wanted only a single undermount sink. The blue granite countertop, which wraps around that circular sink, is this bathroom's only bright color burst.

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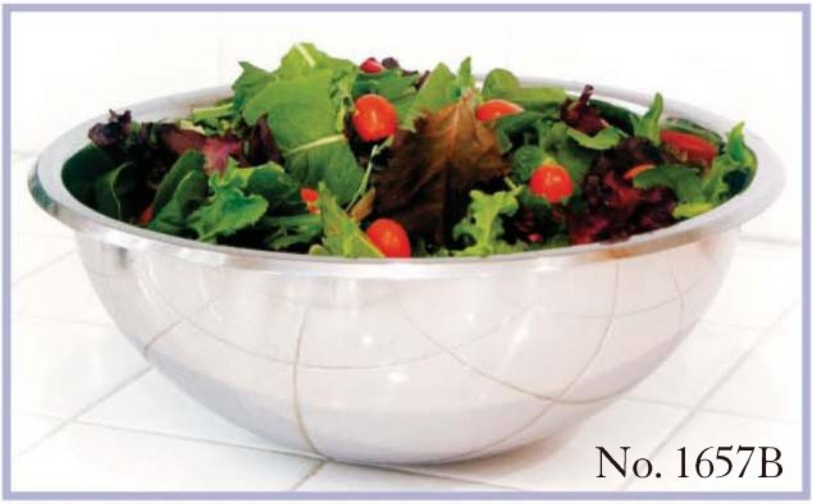

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252. Elkay. At Elkay we design our stainless steel sinks, faucets and accessories to express what you live for: a feeling of comfort, a beautiful balance and a sense of well being. Discover why Elkay is the professional's choice. ELKAY. **Free**

253. Everpure. Everpure commercial grade water filters utilize the company's proprietary technology to filter out impurities as tiny as one-half micron in size. The result is astonishingly clear, safe and delicious water: the essential ingredient in cooking, mixing drinks, water for pasta, coffee, tea, soups, ice cubes, and now, even a lat-night drink in the bathroom. EVERPURE **Free**

254. In-Sink-Erator. Introducing the most innovative line of food waste disposers we've ever created. With MultiGrind™ and SoundSeal™ technologies, they can dispose of almost any food waste, while reducing noise by up to 60%. IN-SINK-ERATOR. **Free**

255. Moen, Inc. Moen offers a complete line of stylish, high-quality kitchen, bar and bath faucets, kitchen sinks, shower products and bath accessories. Moen's new kitchen and bath suites are offered in two exciting new finishes, Oil Rubbed Bronze and Antique Nikel. Moen's new ShowHouse brand is the ultimate in kitchen and bath experiences. MOEN. **Free**

256. Hansgrohe. Since 1901, Hansgrohe has been synonymous with excellence in the kitchen, bath and shower. Enrich your experience with water with the luxury of Axor and Pharo or the diversity of Hansgrohe's premium products. HANSGROHE. **Free**

257. Houzer Sinks by Enex. Houzer sinks are designed for long lasting beauty and years of every day use with minimal care- even in the busiest of kitchens. Combining the highest quality materials and an artisan's attention to the line and detail, Houzer Sinks are crafted to satisfy the

sophisticated consumer who demands the very best. HOUZER SINKS. **Free**

299. All Free Listings From Above

BATHROOM FIXTURES

301. American Lighting Association. Create the proper atmosphere and see yourself in the best light. Today's kitchens and baths reflect our changing lifestyles. Learn design ideas on how lighting can create a pleasant environment in your kitchen & bathroom. AMERICAN LIGHTING ASSOCIATION.**$2.00**

302. Aquatic Industries. Create a personal spa in the comfort of your own home with a luxurious Aquatic whirlpool bath. Offering the finest in hydrotherapy performance, Aquatic features over 100 whirlpool bath designs for one or two people. AQUATIC INDUSTRIES. **$2.00**

303. Bemis® Toilet Seats. The leader in innovation, Bemis offers the fullest line of quality toilet seats in the industry with seats for every application, every price point and to meet every style, color and preference. BEMIS. **Free**

304. Broan® & Nutone® Ventilation Fans. The Broan® and NuTone® Ultra Silent® Series of ventilation products feature virtually silent operation with Sone levels of <0.3 to 1.5. In addition these high style, innovative fans are ENERGY STAR® qualified and HVI-certified. With a variety of attractive grille styles and CFM levels to choose from, there is a ventilation solution designed for superior performance in every home. BROAN NUTONE LLC. **Free**

305. Lucite® Acrylic. LUCITE ACRYLIC TUB/SHOWER MATERIAL TEST KIT...lets you sample Lucite. Lucite is now available with Microban antimicrobial product protection, which inhibits the growth of bacteria that cause odors and stains. The ultimate in durability, cleanability and beauty and the only thing you want next to your skin. LUCITE® ACRYLIC. **Free**

306. MTI Whirlpools. MTI Whirlpools is an industry-leading manufacturer of custom acrylic whirlpools, air baths and soaking tubs; bathroom, kitchen and utility sinks; shower bases and specialty products. MTI also offers a complete line of shower and tub enclosures. MTI WHIRLPOOLS. **Free**

307. Panasonic Ventilation Fans. Panasonic Advanced Ventilation Fans are designed for low energy consumption, super quiet operation and long motor life to maintain a comfortable indoor living environment. HVI certified and ENERGY STAR rated. Easy to install. PANASONIC VENTILATION FANS. **Free**

308. Pittsburgh Corning Glass Blocks. Beautify your home with the proven performance of real glass blocks from Pittsburgh Corning. Select from the many patterns and sizes available in our *Premiere Series*, Light Wise® Windows, or Pittsburgh Corning Shower Systems to add that special touch.. PITTSBURGH CORNING. **Free**

309. Runtal North America, Inc. Towel warmers and decorative radiant heaters for the bathroom in both self-contained electric and hot water units. Also design-oriented radiators for the entire house in many styles and colors. RUNTAL NORTH AMERICA, INC. **Free**

310. SFA Saniflo Inc. Adding a bath where none currently exists? See the full line of Saniflo macerating toilets and gray water pumping systems in a fully illustrated, 16-page brochure, "Works Virtually anywhere: Just Add Water". SANIFLO. **Free**

349. All Free Listings From Above.

WATER FILTRATION

350. Aqua-Pure. Everything you always wanted to know about your water. Aqua-Pure, maker of premium drinking water filtration systems has produced this quick overview of the contaminants and additives commonly found in our drinking water and highlighting their effect on water quality and health. Written in plain English, readers will gain a basic understanding of this increasingly important issue while discovering a number of easy and economical solutions to providing quality drinking water in the home. AQUA-PURE. **Free**

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400. Alloc. Alloc offers a wide variety of laminates and engineered hardwood flooring products featuring realistic design, ease of maintenance and exceptional durability. Alloc's industry exclusive warranty covers joint integrity, staining, fading, wear and water resistance. Alloc Commercial, Original, Domestic, Home, Tile and Wood products feature a mechanical locking system that eliminates the need for messy glues and allows for installation in half the time. ALLOC ORIGINAL. **Free**

great ideas for your home

401. The Concrete Network. Get inspired with flooring design ideas- review colors, patterns and styles. Find a concrete artisan in your local area that can get your job done! THE CONCRETE NETWORK. **Free**

402. The Iron Shop®. From the leading manufacturer of affordable, high-quality spiral stair kits, designed to fit any height and various diameters. Available in Metal, Oak, Victorian Cast Aluminum Kits and Custom All Welded Units. THE IRON SHOP®. **Free**

403. Mohawk. As the world's leading manufacturer of carpet, hardwood, laminate and ceramic, and distributor of resilient flooring, Mohawk Industries is the complete resource for all your flooring needs. MOHAWK. **Free**

404. Nafco by Tarkett. Nafco floors are beautiful, durable, affordable. The realistic look of natural wood and stone is made even more attractive by our exclusive Tritonite wearlayer, stronger than aluminum-oxide and other conventional coatings. Nafco tiles provide a realistic look of natural stone, slate, ceramic and marble. NAFCO. **Free**

405. Quick-Step. Floors with enduring beauty™. You'll love your new Quick-Step laminate floor because it's family friendly, maintenance-free, and it offers all this without forcing you to sacrifice your own personal style. As an assurance of its enduring beauty, your Quick-Step laminate floor comes with a 25 year warranty against wear and topical moisture. QUICK-STEP. **Free**

406. SunTouch Floor Warming System. SunTouch is an electric floor warming system that will put an end to cold floors. The mats are safe, easy to install, and economical to operate. They work great in new construction or remodeling and in projects of any size. SUNTOUCH. **Free**

407. Shaw. What do you want your floor to be? Select from carpet, area rugs, laminate, ceramic, or hardwood. Try on a floor with our easy visualization tool, order samples or set up your own project file. SHAW. **Free**

449. All Free Listings From Above.

HEATING & COOLING

855. Lennox Industries, Inc. Lennox offers free information about its high-quality heating, cooling, and indoor air quality products, which deliver superior performance in all areas important to today's homeowners- comfort, control, efficiency, quiet operation, reliability, and cleaner air. LENNOX INDUSTRIES, INC. **Free**

856. York Heating and Air Conditioning. York's new Affinity Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps systems are sleek, quiet, efficient, and are available in seven designer colors. Because not everyone likes gray. YORK. **Free**

857. Propane Education & Research Council. Propane. Exceptional Energy. Propane is clean, efficient, exceptional energy. Propane furnaces, water heaters, stoves, fireplaces, dryers and outdoor living accessories are easy to install and provide lasting value...not to mention, lasting comfort. Send for free information. PROPANE EDUCATION & RESEARCH COUNCIL. **Free**

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501. Acryline® USA. With over thirty years in the industry, we are experts in warm air system bathing. Acryline® Air System Baths are designed to deliver an exceptional massage bathing experience each and every time. Rejuvenate daily at home with a warm air hydrotherapy bath from Acryline®. ACRYLINE ® USA **Free**

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502. Lucite®Acrylic Spa information kit. Provides an educational video and spa ownership guide that explain how a beautiful, long lasting spa of LUCITE® acrylic will benefit your lifestyle and enhance your home. Also included is a list of spa dealers near you. LUCITE® ACRYLIC. **Free**

549. All Free Listings From Above.

CEILING & LIGHTING FIXTURES

551. American Lighting Association. Ceiling Fans provide year-round comfort in fashionable style throughout the home. When selecting a ceiling fan for any room, know the latest styles as well as learn the nine tips to select the appropriate ceiling fan and light kit in this 12-page color brochure. AMERICAN LIGHTING ASSOCIATION. **$1.00**

552. Dimmers by Lutron. Experience lighting control magic in every room with Lutron dimmers! Lutron dimmers save energy, set a mood and add flexibility when installed anywhere in your home. Learn more from our free, full-color brochure. DIMMERS BY LUTRON. **Free**

SEWING & VACUUMS

601. Baby Lock Sewing Products. Preview the latest in sewing technology. Baby Lock sewing/ embroidery machines and sergers offer the most advanced features to make your projects a breeze. With Baby Lock the possibilities are endless. BABY LOCK. **Free**

602. Brothers Pacesetter Sewing Machines. Create the perfect accent for any room with easy to use sewing machines, embroidery machines and sergers. Color brochure shows how easy it is to create professional results at home with your Pacesetter Sewing System. BROTHER SM. **Free**

603. Janome. The Janome Jem Gold 660 takes the next step in compact portability, offering a jam-proof drop-in bobbin and an automatic needle threader. This 12 lb. machine offers 8 stitches. Standard Janome quality and durability make this the perfect machine for first time sewist or for taking to classes. Janome-Because You Simply Love To Sew. JANOME. **Free**

649. All free Listings Above

DECORATING ACCESSORIES

650. Budget Blinds®. Find ideas and inspiration in the Budget Blinds® FREE Design Guide, Point of Views™. Budget Blinds offers a great selection of custom window coverings, professional measuring and installation, FREE In-home Consultation and over 1,000 Style Consultatns nationwide. Now offering financing. BUDGET BLINDS® **Free.**

651. Sunburst Shutters. Give your windows the treatment they deserve: Sunburst Shutters. Our Polywood shutters are the world's best. They will add more beauty and value to your home than any other window covering. Request a catalog and see the difference Sunburst Shutters make. SUNBURST SHUTTERS **Free.**

652. Easy Crown Molding. The do-it-yourself crown molding system that installs in less than an hour with no tools or measuring. One Easy Crown Moldng kit will decorate a 17' x 17' room, without the hassles or expense of traditional crown molding. A great finishing touch to any home decor. EZAPEEL **Free.**

GARDENING, LANDSCAPING & OUTDOOR FURNITURE

700. Fiskars. Producing quality garden tools since 1649, with a tradition of precision and comfort. Find out why we've got the right tools for you!. FISKARS. **Free.**

701. Mailorder Gardening Association. Welcome to the wonderful world of *Gardening By Mail* where catalogs inspire new possibilities for your garden and serve as useful, creative and educational planning tools. Receive featured literature from *Gardening By Mail* supporting advertisers. MAILORDER GARDENING ASSOCIATION. **Free.**

702. Royal Crown Limited. Triple Crown® Fence eliminates fence headaches. Why worry about rotten posts, termites or toxic chemical treatments? Our beautiful maintenance-free vinyl fence never needs scraping and painting. Invest in a lifetime of carefree ownership. ROYAL CROWN LIMITED. **Free.**

703. Wicker Warehouse. Beautiful wicker and rattan furniture. Teak, wrought iron and Aluminum too! National brands from Lane, Woodard, Cebu, South Sea and More! Plus our own hand-picked imports of bedrooms, bathrooms and children's furniture. WICKER WAREHOUSE. **Free**

749. All Free Listings From Above.

PAINT, STAIN, DECK & SIDING

751. Easy Weekend Projects. This attractive 12-page guide for Minwax® contains easy wood finishing and home decorating projects you can do in a weekend. Also featured are helpful tips and techniques on wood maintenance and repair. MINWAX®. **Free**

752. Brock Deck™. THE ORIGINAL VINYL DECK SYSTEM-Brock Deck™ is the #1 choice in vinyl decking. And has been since 1989 when we invented the first vinyl deck. Wide selection of railing styles in 3 matching colors. BROCK DECK™ ROYAL CROWN LIMITED **Free**

753. Eon® Decking. Eon® is a revolutionary maintenance-free alternative-decking product that features the beauty and feel of natural wood and is backed by a lifetime limited warranty. Eon® beautifies your outdoor living...forever. EON® DECKING. **Free**

754. TimberTech Decking. TimberTech wood-composite decking provides long-lasting performance and low-maintenance with crisp aesthetics. The planks are available in a variety of profiles in Cedar, Grey and Redwood with an Ornamental Rail system also available in White Sand. TIMBERTECH **Free**

755. Elk. Elk Premium Building Products manufactures quality building materials including a wide variety of laminated asphalt shingles and the durable CrossTimbers™ brand of composite decking and fencing. ELK. **Free**

756. True Value. True Value's Color Made Simple paint program features Certified Color Experts and exclusive tools to make finding your perfect shade simple. TRUE VALUE. **Free**

757. KILZ® Stainblocking Ceiling Paint. A new primer-based paint from the KILZ brand. The first ceiling paint that blocks stains and features a revolutionary color changing technology. Ideal for covering and sealing water damage on ceilings. KILZ. **Free**

758. Eldorado Stone, LLC. Eldorado Stone offers several distinct profiles and a variety of color blends from which to choose. Hand-crafted by artisans, be inspired by the beauty and believability of Eldorado. ELDORADO STONE. **Free**

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FINANCIAL

851. Regions Bank. Get started today on your next remodeling project with a Regions Equity AssetLine. Now it's easy to tap the equity you've accumulated in your home. Let us show you how. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. REGIONS BANK **Free**

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❑ 103
❑ 104
❑ 105
❑ 106

Kitchen Appliances
❑ 151
❑ 152
❑ 154
❑ 155
❑ 156
❑ 157
❑ 158
❑ 159
❑ 160

Kitchens & Baths Cabinets & Countertops
❑ 202
❑ 203
❑ 204
❑ 205
❑ 206
❑ 207
❑ 208
❑ 209
❑ 210
❑ 211
❑ 212
❑ 213

Kitchens & Baths Faucets & Sinks
❑ 250
❑ 251
❑ 252
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❑ 257

Bathroom Fixtures
❑ 303
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❑ 305
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Water Filtration
❑ 350

Flooring
❑ 400
❑ 401
❑ 402
❑ 403
❑ 404
❑ 405
❑ 406
❑ 407

Heating &Cooling
❑ 855
❑ 856
❑ 857

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❑ 501
❑ 502

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❑ 552

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❑ 601
❑ 602
❑ 603

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❑ 701
❑ 702
❑ 703

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❑ 751
❑ 752
❑ 753
❑ 754
❑ 755
❑ 756
❑ 757
❑ 758

Financial
❑ 851

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❑ 149. Kitchen Appliances
❑ 199. Kitchens & Baths Cabinets/Countertops
❑ 299. Kitchens & Baths Faucets/ Sinks
❑ 349. Bathroom Fixtures
❑ 399. Windows/Doors
❑ 449. Flooring
❑ 549. Pools, Spas, Saunas & Hot Tubs
❑ 649. Sewing/Vacuums
❑ 749. Gardening/Landscaping/ & Outdoor Furniture
❑ 799. Paint/Stain/Deck/Siding

Priced Literature

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Kitchen Appliances
❑ 153. **$5.00**

Kitchens & Baths Cabinets & Countertops
❑ 201.
❑ 204. **$3.00**

Bathroom Fixtures
❑ 301. **$2.00**
❑ 302. **$2.00**

Ceilings & Lighting Fixtures
❑ 551. **$1.00**

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❑ 752. **$1.00**

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❑ 801 **$5.00**

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six months to a new bathroom

WRITTEN BY BERNADETTE BACZYNSKI

Thinking about remodeling your bathroom? Remember the golden rule of any home-improvement project: The more planning you do up front, the happier you'll be with the final result. Use this checklist to get yourself started and keep you on track.

THREE TO SIX MONTHS AHEAD

- ☐ **SET UP A FILE** to keep track of ideas, products, names and business cards. Look through books and magazines, tagging photos and gathering samples. Make careful notes of manufacturers, product ID numbers and where you saw the product.
- ☐ **MAKE LISTS** of must-haves and wishes, so you'll know clearly where you will and won't compromise. Keep in mind what's working and not working in your present bathroom, including storage and the location of fixtures and windows.
- ☐ **VISIT MODEL HOMES** and friends' remodeling projects, again noting what would and wouldn't work for you. Carry a camera to record ideas that you like.
- ☐ **BEGIN RESEARCHING CONTRACTORS**. Check with local professional associations, ask friends for referrals, note yard signs of remodeling work in progress. Many home-improvement stores also offer full-service design and remodeling help.
- ☐ **GO WITH A PRO.** If your project involves major structural changes, it's important to have an architect or bathroom designer involved; the contractor may make some referrals. Even a straightforward face-lift can benefit from professional design input.
- ☐ **INCORPORATE UNIVERSAL DESIGN ELEMENTS**, such as wider doors, grab bars, taller toilets, easy-access showers and tubs and easy-to-use handles, if you plan to stay in your home for many years. You can also have walls reinforced now so grab bars can be added later, without major work.
- ☐ **VISIT YOUR BANKER** or mortgage lender to discuss financing options and how much you can afford, and your financial planner to discuss tax advantages. Whatever your upper range, figure on spending about 10 percent more.

ONE TO THREE MONTHS AHEAD

- ☐ **NARROW DOWN** the field of contractors to three, reviewing credentials, status of licenses and insurance and professional affiliations; check the Better Business Bureau for complaints. Ask for references and, if possible, visit an in-progress project, noting the site's neatness and the atmosphere, to get a sense of what you'll be living with.

PHOTOGRAPHS: THIS PAGE, KOHLER; OPPOSITE, TOTO

☐ **INVITE CONTRACTORS TO YOUR HOME** to review your project and give bids. Provide each with identical plans and information to receive accurate proposals. Be aware of your reaction to the contractor. This is an ongoing relationship: If you feel uncomfortable, keep looking.

☐ **SETTLE ON A CONTRACTOR.** Be sure expectations are clear, then get everything in writing, perhaps having contracts checked over by your attorney before they are signed. Also be sure you understand and are comfortable with how money will be distributed. There's generally a start-up payment, several interim disbursements and a balance due upon completion.

☐ **FINE-TUNE YOUR PLAN** and pare down your idea file. With samples and accurate measurements in hand, visit home-improvement centers and bath showrooms, keeping track of item numbers. You may or may not want to do this with your design professional.

☐ **BE CLEAR** on who should order what; generally, the contractor will handle orders and schedule deliveries. If you choose to buy fixtures on your own, bear in mind that a contractor may not warrant the installation of what he doesn't provide.

☐ **DO ALL YOUR BATH RENOVATIONS AT ONCE.** It's more cost efficient, and contractors will work with you to keep at least one fixture operable. Depending upon the size of the project and the level of detail, a full bathroom renovation requires about four to six weeks, start to finish. Why go through it twice?

WEEKS BEFORE AND DURING

☐ **LET THE NEIGHBORS IN ON THE PLANS,** such as daily construction schedules and major deliveries. Your courtesy will likely make them more willing to endure any temporary inconveniences.

☐ **TALK WITH THE CONTRACTOR** about day-to-day routines, including where deliveries will be stored, where work areas will be set up, which bathroom workers will use. Keep pets away from the site.

☐ **CLEAR OUT LINENS AND TOILETRIES,** and set up a temporary grooming space that's out of the way of the workers. Fix individual totes for family members to keep personal items portable and organized.

☐ **ARRANGE A FEW SLEEPOVERS FOR THE KIDS,** if possible. You all might enjoy the break. Have a family meeting about the process, emphasizing patience and cooperation.

☐ **KEEP COMMUNICATIONS OPEN** so everyone knows what to expect and what is expected of them. Be available for questions, either on-site or by phone. Often, contractors will run into snags that require homeowner input or approval; if they are unable to reach you quickly, it can cause expensive delays.

FINAL DAYS

☐ **NOTE ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED.** You and the contractor will have a final walk-through, making a punch list of to-dos before you sign off. ◆

help desk

FOR MORE IDEAS AND ADVICE:

National Kitchen & Bath Association,
www.nkba.org

National Association of the Remodeling Industry,
www.nari.org

National Association of Home Builders,
www.nahb.org

Smart Consumer Services,
www.smartconsumerservices.org

what's your look?

Take our quiz to help discover your personal style and create the kitchen of your dreams

1. It's time to write a thank-you note to a close friend. Do you:

A. Dash off an IM from your BlackBerry?

B. Craft a collage of images personally significant to both of you into a card?

C. Trot out the calligrapher's pen and your monogrammed note cards?

2. You've found an extra hour in the weekend to devote to yourself. That's the perfect time to:

A. Manage your iTunes playlist.

B. Troll around on eBay for bargains on vintage Fiestaware.

C. Fill up the bathtub, throw some rose petals in the water and bliss out with a copy of *Gone with the Wind*.

3. It's Saturday night and you're flipping through the movie section in the paper. Do you:

A. Gasp with delight when that art film from Hong Kong finally makes it to your local theater?

B. Use running times and show times to calculate the possibility of seeing *two* of the latest blockbusters—in one night?

C. Wonder what happened to movies where characters speak to each other in complete sentences and are less than handy with rifles and grenades?

4. Your friends want you to choose the restaurant for your birthday dinner. You're most likely to pick:

A. The freshest sushi joint in town.

B. Olive Garden.

C. Fine French cuisine.

5. The time has come to blot out the world and immerse yourself in music. You're most apt to get totally lost in:

A. The custom mix on your iPod Nano.

B. A CD of a classic album by the Beatles or the Moody Blues.

C. An evening at the opera, preferably live.

6. After a week out of the country, you can't wait to catch up on the news by tuning in to:

A. *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.*

B. *NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams.*

C. *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.*

7. When it comes to sports, you're confident the athletes in your house are ready to take on all comers in:

A. Lacrosse.

B. Football.

C. Golf.

8. Some co-workers are laughing about last night's TV offerings. You tell them the funniest show on network TV is:

A. *Everybody Hates Chris.*

B. *Desperate Housewives.*

C. *The Apprentice.*

9. The digital photos you took of your relatives are great. How do you get copies to them?

A. Burn a CD.

B. Print them out at Walgreens or Target.

C. You don't own a digital camera.

What's your kitchen comfort zone?

Score 0 points for each A answer; 1 point for each B; and 2 points for each C.

0 to 7: You're a cool customer who wants a very contemporary kitchen indeed.

8 to 14: Consider a transitional look, which is a blend of traditional and contemporary elements.

15 to 18: You're a classic and your kitchen should reflect your taste for timeless styling. ◆

PHOTOGRAPH: MERILLAT

Resources

Buying Guide

Rise and Shine

Pages 76–83:

Architect, Geoff Prentiss, Prentiss Architects. ***Dishwasher***, Jenn-Air. ***Refrigerator***, Amana. ***Range***, Lacanche.

Al Fresco Fancy

Pages 84–89:

Designer, John Franklin, Franklin Design. ***Grill***, Viking.

Cooking Light

Pages 90–95:

Designer, Paul Lukez Architecture. ***Contractor***, JBM Construction, Home Maintenance Organization. ***Cabinets***, Vesta, QuakerMaid Cabinetry. ***Cooktop with BBQ grill*** and ***range***, FiveStar. ***Double oven***, Jenn-Air. ***Refrigerator***, Sub-Zero. ***Sinks*** and ***secondary faucet***, Elkay. ***Primary faucet***, KWC. ***Dishwasher***, Bosch. ***Halogen downlights***, Hera Lighting. ***Cabinet hardware***, Forms & Surfaces. ***Paint***, Benjamin Moore. ***Hood***, Bonded Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.

Great Walls of Tile

Pages 96–99:

Page 96: ***Above left***, Bardelli Tile. ***Above right***, Rocky Mountain Hardware. ***Middle***, Urban Archaeology. ***Below***, Oceanside Glasstile.
Page 98: ***Above***, Meredith Tile. ***Below left***, Walker Zanger.
Page 99: ***Above***, Hakatai, ***Middle***, Vitrium. ***Below left*** and ***right***, Pratt & Larson.

Under the Desert Sun

Pages 100–105:

Designer, Archaeo Architects. ***Contractor***, J.P. Construction. ***Cabinets***, custom, Wolfswinkel Enterprises. ***Tub***, Rhapsody, Maax. ***Sinks***, Sebring; ***faucets*** Amarilis; and ***shower fittings***, all American Standard. ***Tumbled marble counter, backsplashes, shower accents*** and ***tumbled marble shower floor***, Walker Zanger. ***Lighting***, ***cabinet hardware*** and ***bath*** ➞

Special Offer

Hot & Cold Serving Pieces Offer

Shown on page 112

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Buying Guide *continued from page 121*

accessories, Rejuvenation. ***Main floor and walls,*** Hauteville, Rossi USA Corp. ***Windows***, Sierra Pacific Windows.

Soaking in Serenity

Pages 106–111:

Architect, Robin Pennel, Jarvis Architects. ***Contractor***, Columba Duffy Construction. ***Bathroom vanities*** and ***interior doors***, Craig Collins Furniture. ***Interior and exterior door hardware***, Rocky Mountain Hardware. ***Windows***, custom, 4th Street Woodworking. ***Sink***, Toto. ***Faucets***, Kallista.

Corrections

In *Kitchens & Baths*, XVII, Number 3, *One Size Fits All!* was photographed by J. Savage Gibson and styled by Brian Carter. *Success Story* was photographed by Emily Followill and styled by Annette Joseph. We regret the errors.

Sources

Adolfo Perez Architect
69 Union St.
Newton, MA 02459
617-527-7442
www.adolfoperez.com

Amana
800-843-0304
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Bulky fabrics, pinching hooks, unsightly seams, back aches, bra lines, bad fit—what crazy person invented the conventional bra anyway! Tired of dealing everyday with unflattering and cumbersome bras, Amanda Kennedy, a former actress and model, has finally perfected a comfortable flattering bra for real women. It's the end of the line for visible bra lines and the dreaded back bulge—two big fashion faux pas. Amanda designed the ingenious Sassybax™, a cure for the most common problems of old fashioned bras. The Sassybax™ seamless stretch material is made of super smooth microfiber that hugs your body in a slimming silhouette. This fiber will make you look sleeker and thinner as it smoothes and softens any unsightly back bulges.

Before

After

It's amazing that an actress like Amanda who spent so much time getting noticed invented a product that is meant to be invisible. She spent 11 years guest starring in such shows as *Cheers*, *Remington Steele*, *Dallas* and *Hart to Hart*, but as she tiptoed into her 40's, she realized that her clothes didn't look so sleek anymore. Her uncomfortable bra accentuated every bulge. Back bulge is not a woman's fault—it's the bra. Amanda poured herself into helping greater womanhood, not those few who may be blessed with a near perfect shape. Her inspiration came from control top panty hose that Amanda cut, clipped and formed into her first prototype. Then she redesigned a model in the supersoft microfiber that felt like wearing nothing at all, but still offered excellent support even when her full figured DD sized friends tried it on. Now the fashion world is abuzz with Sassybax. It's been raved about by *The View*, *Good Morning America*, *CBS News* and *FOX News*. You may have read the great reviews in some prominent publications. The "before and after" video on *Good Morning America* was startling. The host was quoted as saying with Sassybax, "She's completely line free, all the lumps and bumps are gone, she looks terrific."

Amanda Kennedy
Inventor and Designer
of Sassybax

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Sub-Zero
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Thompson's WaterSeal
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Toto USA
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Urban Archaeology
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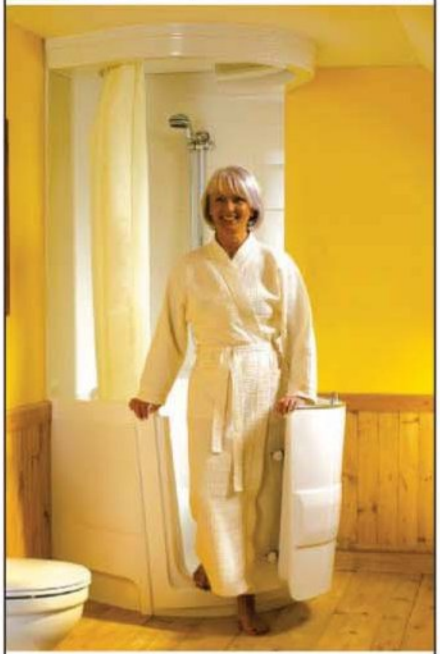

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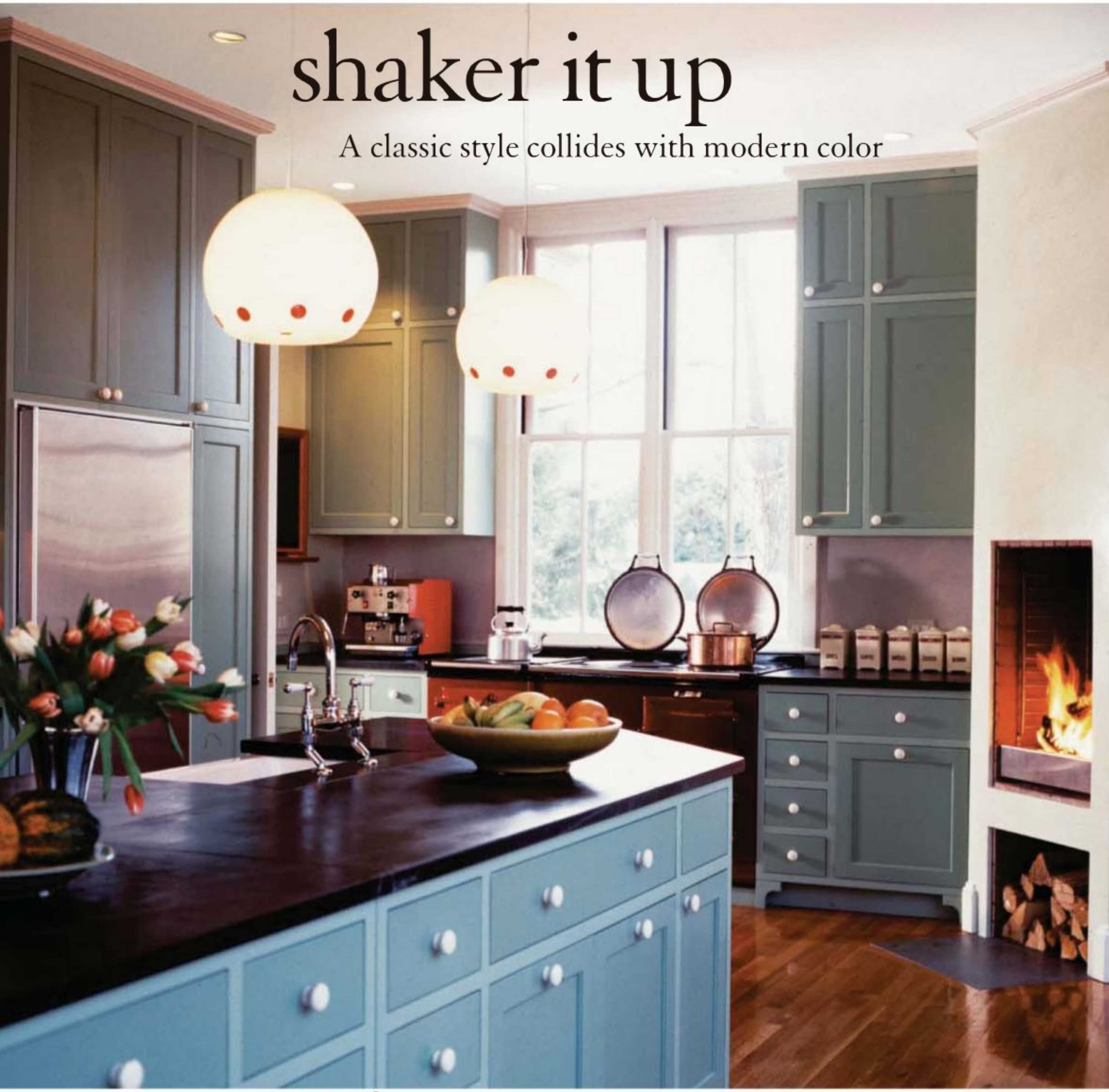

PHOTOGRAPH: ERIC ROTH

Architect Adolfo Perez flaunts conventional color wisdom and uses white as an accent in this twist-on-tradition kitchen. Milky white glass globe lights and simple circular drawer pulls set off the pure blues, greens and reds of the room. Charcoal counters quietly tie it all together.

—LESLIE PLUMMER CLAGETT, EDITOR

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